

## NEWSMAKERS OTY

The Cord runs down WLU's stories of the year ... **PAGES 8-9**

## WILFIE AWARDS

Fame and infamy await this year's winners ... **PAGES 16-17**



## BYE, BYE BEV

Dining Hall mainstay set to retire this month ... **PAGE 20**

CCNA AWARDS  
2007 WINNER  
BEST CAMPUS  
NEWSPAPER

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# New Laurier Milton campus?

Laurier is exploring the idea of opening a satellite campus in Milton, Ontario

**JOE TURCOTTE**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

Wilfrid Laurier University and the town of Milton, Ontario have signed a letter of intent to pursue the possibility of opening a satellite campus in Canada's fastest-growing community. While the two parties have agreed to examine the possi-

bility of expanding the university, this does not guarantee that such a move will occur.

"It's not as though we've entered into an agreement to do anything but explore [the possibility]," said WLU President Dr. Max Blouw.

"Nothing would happen unless we were confident that this was to the benefit of Laurier," he added.

Blouw points out that the negotiations for the possible Milton campus are still in their very early stages, and that right now the types of programs and make-up of a new campus have yet to be discussed.

However, what is known is that the land the Milton campus would likely be developed on is roughly twice the size of the current Water-

loo campus.

By building another campus, the university would be able to deal with the space issues that are currently hindering growth in Waterloo.

"Clearly, we're spilling out on the boundaries of our Waterloo campus. I've heard a lot of comments about the size of our Waterloo campus getting too big to the concept of being able to produce that outstanding undergraduate student

experience," said Blouw.

"There's a limit to how far we can grow until there's a diminishment of the experience that our students value here," he continued.

As the university's recent expansion to Kitchener and Brantford illustrate, the school is seeking ways to grow without expanding the current Waterloo campus.

- SEE MILTON, PAGE 3



SYDNEY HELLAND

**ON LEGAL STRIKE** - Part-timers may be back to teaching class if bargaining comes to an end this week.

## CAS negotiations to resume

After a nine-day hiatus, WLUFA and the university announced that they will be returning to bargaining, which is set to reconvene on Thursday

**REBECCA VASLUIANU**  
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, nine days after negotiations broke down on Wednesday, March 19 at 6:01 am and contract academic staff (CAS) went on strike, the university administration and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) announced they would resume bargaining on Thursday, April 3 at 10 am.

VP: Academic Sue Horton explains that one of the major reasons the university decided to contact WLUFA to get back to the bargaining table was the reaction

of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) to the part-time faculty strike.

"WLUFA had sent out this appeal ... we heard that appeal, and that was what motivated us to get back in touch with [WLUFA] and ask if they would like to meet and set a date," stated Horton.

Judy Bates, WLUFA President, indicates that the union is pleased to have been contacted by the university after so long, yet she explains that significant movement on three major issues will still be needed in order for both sides to reach a settlement.

"The university has to consider

the three areas still remaining to be settled," said Bates. "And that's the pay, that's the seniority, and also the step system so that we can acknowledge that people who have more experience deserve more pay."

Horton, however, is hopeful that both sides will come to an agreement, and she explains that recent communication between both sides to write an open letter in response to a letter of concern written by student senators suggests that both sides are willing to cooperate.

- SEE CAS, PAGE 7

## OneCard audit done

After a forensic audit, administration assures that no students suffered a loss on their OneCard

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

A final report of the findings regarding an extensive forensic audit of the OneCard office, which began on November 8, 2007 and officially came to a close on February 28, 2008, has now been submitted and external auditor KPMG has closed off that specific account with the university.

When the audit began, nearly four months ago, the manager of the OneCard office and The Hub, Nick

Tomljenovic, was on a paid leave of absence. However, sometime during the process of the audit, Tomljenovic was no longer classified as an employee of the university.

"All I can say is that Nick has left [as an] employee of the university," said Allison Roberts, VP: Human Resources, who also explained that the reason he was placed on a leave from the beginning was so it would be a "clean audit."

- SEE ONECARD, PAGE 4



SYDNEY HELLAND

**COUNTING COIN** - The forensic OneCard audit took nearly four months.



**THE CORD WEEKLY**  
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**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**  
"I get really bored just sucking on it, so I play with it, stick my tongue inside, you know."

- International Editor Waleed Hafeez on the straw in his Coca-Cola bottle.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**  
**Debauchery** - Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures, as in The Cord staff's ability and frequent tendency to consume excessive amounts of alcohol.

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**COLOPHON**

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**Preamble to The Cord Constitution**

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of The Cord shall uphold all community held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special eye to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through The Cord's contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

# WLU Senate holds emergency meeting

**LAURA CARLSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

With a gallery of over 100 students, professors and community members, the university Senate met yesterday evening for an emergency meeting to discuss issues of academic concern relating to the extension of the add/drop date in light of the recent contract academic staff (CAS) strike.

Laurier president Max Blouw called the meeting to order just after 4 pm and highlighted the purpose behind the gathering.

"The reason for this meeting [is] on Thursday, March 27, the secretary of Senate ... received a letter from subset members of the Senate requesting a special meeting of the Senate to be called today at 4 pm."

Specifically, there were three matters of business being addressed at the meeting, and Blouw asked all attendees to refrain from any off-topic comments or concerns, especially if they were relating to the strike or negotiations.

In regards to the first item in the agenda, VP: Academic Sue Horton began with introductory remarks in response to the question of what right she had to extend the add/drop date for the winter term without Senate approval.

"I did exceed my authority. I did not have full knowledge ... so I apologize," Horton said to the crowd.

Though Blouw had previously explained that no motions could be put forth for tabling or discussion because nothing had been

received prior to the meeting, a two-thirds majority vote allowed a drafted motion to be put forth.

Following discussion on the behalf of Senate and gallery members, a motion was eventually put forward which recognizes the fact that Horton had exceeded her authority, and permits any student who is currently enrolled in a course or course section taught by a CAS member to drop it, without academic penalty, until April 8.

**"I DID EXCEED MY AUTHORITY. I DID NOT HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE ... SO I APOLOGIZE."**

**- Sue Horton, VP: Academic**

Chair of the Senate By-laws committee Joyce Lorimer spoke to the movement.

"I have sufficient confidence in the governance of this institution that people would recognize that there had been an improper action taken, that this action probably belonged to Senate and needed to be brought back under the authority of Senate, if this rather chaotic situation is to be rectified," stated Lorimer.

She spoke against the university allowing students to drop their courses because of the strike, a sentiment that was echoed by the noisy protesters who had gathered outside the Senate window.

"We're out here to show them that we're still here, that we're still on strike," explained part-time professor Carl Simpson. "That we

want to go back to teaching, that we want to go back to the negotiating table and that we don't think it's a good idea for the university to be encouraging students to drop our classes."

After a lengthy debate from multiple parties, specifically concerning the wording of the motion, issues pertaining to dropped courses taught by full-time professors - because LORIS was unable to restrict access to which classes were taught by CAS - and concerns about the loss of class time, the motion received an overwhelming majority of support.

"Although I am unhappy that that window of opportunity for students to continue to drop CAS courses is there, at least now it's under Senate's control," Lorimer said after the motion had been passed.

Yet despite this support from Senate, one group of individuals who addressed their concerns with the motion during the previous deliberations and formally opposed it during the actual voting was the student senators.

"The visual of all the student representatives in this room voting against something that was unanimously voted in favour of by the rest of the Senate members is a clear indication of how the rest of the strike situation has been dealt with, and how they continue to deal with students," explained Student Senator Rachael Baker.

Baker and her fellow student senators, as well as senators-elect, student governors and governors-elect, gathered this past Sunday to draft an open letter to WLUFA and the university that highlights several concerns these representatives have with how the student body has been adversely affected by the strike.

"We drew up that letter in response to a situation that we've been entirely left out of," explained student senator Bryn Ossington.

"At this point, we need to get around [labour negotiations]. We need to say 'how will we be affected by this action?'"

Though the student senators initially wanted the open letter on the agenda for this week's meeting, because of policy they were not permitted to address any issues which were not already approved.

Student Senator Josh Smyth explained that he hopes that at the next meeting, they will be able to receive constructive input from administration in regards to the demands they made in their letter.

"I'm perfectly willing to entertain a rational and calm explanation of why something we've said is not doable," said Smyth.

"What I'm not willing to entertain is a dismissal because we're students and that's what they've been giving us. I would like there to be a dialogue here."

The Senate will meet again next Monday at 4 pm in the Senate and Board Chambers.

- With files from Ashley Jang



SYDNEY HELLAND

**HEAR US LOUD AND CLEAR** - Student Senator Bryn Ossington voices his displeasure about the treatment of students during the CAS strike.



## VOCAL CORD

"How prepared do you think Laurier is to open a new satellite campus?"



"I think it's a good idea to expand. We could use more quality Laurier students."

- Sean Mui-Tummers  
First-year Business



"I don't know if it's a good idea, considering money issues, and now that the strike is on."

- Ryan Brownless  
Third-year Political Science



"I think they should focus on the Waterloo campus before expanding."

- Cassandra Hammett  
First-year Psychology



"I already feel like the Waterloo and Brantford campuses are so separate from one another as it is."

- Ksenia Leszyk  
Second-year Communication



"I think it's a good idea to be expanding, though I don't know how good Brantford is."

- Russ Goslin  
First-year Business

# GSA will not join WLUSU

Graduate students voted in favour of joining WLUSP, but the same could not be said about WLUSU

MELISSA DRANFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

Last night, about 30 graduate students and board members of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) gathered in the Grad Pub for the GSA's Annual General Meeting. During the meeting, the results of Monday's referendum were announced.

"We had a total of 153 voters over the course of the advanced polling, e-mail voting and yesterday's polling," announced Ellen Menage, the Chief Returning Officer for the referendum.

"That's 22 percent of grad students."

Graduate students passed the first referendum question, which effectively brings WLUGSA under the Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) membership.

"Of 153 votes, four votes were spoiled, the Yes vote was 108, and the No vote was 41," announced Menage.

As a result of this question being approved, grad students will now pay \$13.16 per year, which will be offset by a reduction in the GSA Capital Reserve Fee, a fund originally set up to either rent or purchase space specifically for grad student use, whether that be on-campus or off.

In fact, the reduction in the GSA Capital Reserve Fee more than offsets the new WLUSP fee; overall reductions will decrease total fees paid by grad students from \$829.11 per year to \$818.27.

Steve Lafleur, head of the Yes campaign for the WLUSP question, commented, "As far as the WLUSP result, it was very satisfying. I think that for one thing, it will actually get the *Gradvocate* back up on its feet rather than being in an untraceable online format."

"I was also pleased on another note to find out that the board was going to be reducing fees by about \$10.00 to the students. I think that was one of the best results of the



GREG MCKENZIE

EVERY VOTE COUNTS - Michael Lockhart mans the voter information table for Monday's GSA referendum.

day."

The second referendum question, regarding changes to the internal structure and representation of the GSA, was also passed with a strong majority.

Of the 153 votes, two were spoiled, the Yes vote was 102 and the No vote was 49.

As outlined during the meeting, a committee will now be established to implement the changes to the GSA's internal structure and to amend the GSA's constitution appropriately.

The final referendum question, however, regarding the WLUGSA membership becoming part of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU), was not passed by graduate students. Of the 153 ballots, one was spoiled and the No vote won 95-57.

Culum Canally, head of the No campaign, was extremely pleased with the results of the referendum question.

"I believe that the referendum today - the three referendum items - reflect the willingness, especially with respect to the WLUSP item, of graduates to be part of this community and to work with undergraduates, but still keep their autonomy and their voice."

Melany Banks, head of the Yes campaign on the WLUSU question, was disappointed with that particular result, but added, "I feel hopeful that graduate students are really going to step up and become as active as they were in the Yes/No campaigns, in the GSA because the GSA is only as a strong as the participation that we have."

"If we could have 30 or 60 people out of the 700 helping, we're going to have an amazing GSA, but if it comes down to one or two people, then we're going to have a lot of problems," Banks added. "I'm excited about WLUSP - that's going to be good."

Dan Allison, WLUSU President,

commented that although the merger of the GSA and WLUSU did not pass, "It was a partnership that we were trying to work on, but it's the decision of the people, and if that's the case, that's the case. If not an official one, I think there's still a relationship that was built that can be carried on."

"I'm happy it went to referendum and because of that, we did build a strong relationship between the two groups."

The GSA will now begin its period of nominations and elections for the board positions created by the change in internal structure of the GSA. For those interested in running, the deadline for nomination packages in order to participate in campaigning is Tuesday, April 8.

Grad students will vote on GSA positions for the 2008-09 academic year on Monday, April 21 between 11 am and 2 pm. E-mail ballots will also be available.

## WLU 'spilling' out of Waterloo

- FROM MILTON, COVER

By building another campus, the university would be able to deal with the space issues that are currently hindering growth in Waterloo.

"Clearly, we're spilling out [of] the boundaries of our Waterloo campus. I've heard a lot of comments about the size of our Waterloo campus getting too big to the concept of being able to produce that outstanding undergraduate student experience," said Blouw.

"There's a limit to how far we can grow until there's a diminishment of the experience that our students value here," he continued.

As the university's recent expan-

sion to Kitchener and Brantford illustrate, the school is seeking ways to grow without expanding the current Waterloo campus.

Similar to at Laurier, the town of Milton is currently concerned with its own expansion issues, as its population continues to grow. And much like Laurier, the growth of the town is being directed in a fashion that is concerned with how these increases will affect the quality of life for its current residents.

"We are really interested in having balanced growth," said the Chief Administrative Officer for the town of Milton, Mario Belvedere.

"And balanced growth means that we believe it's really important to have a post-secondary edu-

cational facility within our community," he continued.

As Belvedere explained, part of this process is to plan how a new university campus could be integrated into the community itself.

To do so, Milton has proposed the creation of an "Education Village," which could include both on- and off-campus housing for students and a research park.

Such an Education Village would make sure that the interests of Milton residents would not be adversely affected and would work "to ensure that the interface between the campus and the residential neighbourhoods is properly considered and done in a comprehensive way," explained

Belvedere.

While talks for a new campus in Milton are in their early stages and few plans have been developed fully, Belvedere feels that the similarities between the growth being experienced by Laurier and Milton make collaboration between the two parties ideal.

"[Laurier is] growing at a rate that we're growing at; it's kind of interesting," said Belvedere.

"I think that they have a very strong desire to be proactive at dealing with the needs of students, so it just kind of fits with our mandate as well."

See PAGE 22 for editorial reaction to this story



# Laurier unplugged

WLU students take part in Earth Hour initiative

**MICHELLE CALDARONI**  
STAFF WRITER

With the exception of glow-in-the-dark sticks wielded by Earth Hour participants between 8 and 9 pm on Alumni Field, WLU turned off its lights in the name of conservation Saturday night.

Event organizer Jen Schneider explained how "Earth Hour started last year in Sydney, Australia. Sydney turned off their lights for one hour, and within that one hour they conserved the same amount of energy as taking 48,000 cars off the road for one year."

Last year, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reported that energy consumption dropped 10.2 percent during Earth Hour. This year, the City of Toronto nearly hit the same goal with an 8.7 percent drop in energy consumption, compared to the 4-5 percent drop in Waterloo, as reported by the City of Waterloo in a recent press release.

On the WLU campus, the majority of lights were out in residences and other buildings, aside from the library lights, which shone on.

"The parking lot lights are out, all of Willison [Hall] almost, King Street [Residence] - they were trying too," Schneider said as she looked around campus shortly after 8 pm.

Throughout the 60 minute period, the area was buzzing with students and other partakers who came to see what the commotion was about.

"On our Facebook group we had over 800 [RSVPs], and we set up a booth at the Concourse," explained Schneider.

"We had a lot of upper-year students coming out too," she noted. "We were worried about it just being within the residences but, by the sounds of it, a lot of people are coming from off-campus too."

The Facebook group had to handle some concerns, though - specifically about security and safety, although Schneider and the other organizers planned to make the campus safe during this time.

"A lot of people were worried about the power being off - security and safety issues. We notified ERT and Foot Patrol ahead of time so that we could have some extra safety at Laurier," she said.

On Alumni Field, light-up frisbees and footballs were tossed around amongst participants, while a circle of musicians sat playing in the parking lot next to the free barbequed food.

Participants that came down signed banners with their definition of "unplugged" and picked up one of 2000 glow sticks that were brought in for the occasion.

"I thought it was a good thing for the world, to raise awareness," said first-year kinesiology student Matthew Crombeen, after playing a game of glow-in-the-dark frisbee.

Aside from Laurier, the University of Waterloo and Conestoga College also participated in the 2008 version of the event.



SHEENA ARCHIE

**TURN OFF THE LIGHT** - Alumni Field was pitched into darkness on Saturday night in support of Earth Hour.

## Audit report may become public information

- FROM **ONECARD**, COVER

Though Roberts could not share details regarding Tomljenovic's departure from Laurier or when specifically he was no longer considered to be an employee, she did explain that he only just recently left.

"I'm not at liberty to share the details around that, but I can reassure you that the audit did not show evidence that any student suffered a loss on their OneCard as a result of anything happening with the system," said Roberts.

KPMG was contacted earlier in the year by Laurier to conduct a forensic audit. Stephen McIntyre, president of MG Forensic Accounting Investigations Inc. - a Toronto firm specializing in forensic audits - and a former employee with the Toronto police fraud squad, explains that a forensic audit is quite different from the standard auditing process.

"A regular audit is done in conjunction with or in accordance

with generally acceptable auditing standards or GAS and those stipulate the methodology to be used throughout the audit," said McIntyre.

"Typically what happens [in a forensic audit] is a client calls ... and says 'We've got a bad feeling about this' and they'll tell us the circumstances surrounding it. Generally, they're financial and typically it involves individuals that may be working in a financial area," he added.

Roberts further explains that currently the report findings of the OneCard audit are "privileged" and that they won't necessarily become public information.

"I think that as long as the university can reassure the students that they didn't suffer any loss financially to their OneCards, I'm not sure that there would be a need to publish more detail," she said.

"I think really that that's the most important message for the students ... that there's no evidence that they were in any way defrauded of mon-

ey," added Roberts.

Thomas Kozloski, a Laurier professor who teaches a fourth-year seminar on auditing, has three degrees in accounting and finance and has worked as both a conventional and forensic accounting consultant, explains that "unfortunately" it is quite typical for institutions to respond in this type of way.

"Nobody likes to have bad publicity of the knowledge that their organization maybe was lacking in some sort of internal controls or that this was able to take place at the organization," said Kozloski.

"Good systems of internal control will generally stop one person from trying to steal, misappropriate assets, or whatever," he added.

Kozloski also noted that in the past he has seen cases where individuals are able to move across organizations because they know they don't always get called to account for their actions.

"Organizations are often unwilling to press charges, criminal charges, in addition to dismissal,"

said Kozloski.

"If they dismissed this person because of this, it was because they made a cost-benefit decision that says 'Look, you go away, we'll continue on, we won't publicize it or ... ask the police to charge you and you just go away' and that's often times how these things are resolved," he added.

David McMurray, dean of students at WLU, who has been part of the auditing team since the investigation began, noted that with Tomljenovic's departure, the OneCard office is left without a permanent manager.

Currently, Richard Godsmark, manager of ResNet, who has been working in the OneCard office throughout the course of the audit, will continue serving as the interim manager.

McMurray went on to state that the director of residential services, Mike Belanger, and the general manager of student services, Dan Dawson, have already met to review how the OneCard office oper-

ates and that they are now exploring how to go forward from here.

"They've already made some operational changes on their own," said McMurray, though he added that he wouldn't expect to see any significant changes until September.

Though it is still unknown at this time what exactly will happen as a result of the information provided by the audit, John Metcalfe, Director of University Information and Privacy Office, explained that typically when an audit is received by the university, most of it would be classified as public information.

"Most of it would be public, but the parts that won't be public, according to the legislation, will be personal information of third parties and anything that may have to do with law enforcement, but it seems to me that generally the document should be public."

See **PAGE 22** for editorial reaction to this story



# Miss G\_ Project closer to goal

Ontario Ministry of Education announces intent to incorporate a Women and Gender Studies course into the curriculum at the high school level

JENNIFER RAE  
STAFF WRITER

After more than three years of relentless campaigning, an announcement this past week by Ontario Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne has brought the Miss G\_ Project for Equity in Education one step closer to reaching their mandated goal.

The group was formed with the intention of combatting all forms of oppression in education and the organization's main objective since that time has been to lobby the provincial government in an effort to have a Women and Gender Studies (WGS) course integrated into the curriculums of all Ontario high schools.

In a meeting that took place

March 20, Miss G\_ members were told by education officers at the Ministry of Education that progress is being made to develop the optional course. It was declared that, as of September, the Ministry will make a formal announcement to publicly state that Ontario is moving ahead with creating the course – which should be integrated into the curriculum as of September 2010.

As reported by the *Toronto Star*, the government has already financially supported pilot courses that have been put into practice at several Ontario schools. These courses have covered various women's issues, including topics such as body image, portrayal of violence in the media, and the ways in which language can perpetrate sexism.

Two Laurier students, Sasha Cocarla and Sara Conrad, are co-chairs of the Kitchener-Waterloo chapter of the group, and are joined by other Laurier student volunteers who are determined to ensure that a WGS course is implemented around the province.

"THIS IS ONE PROJECT WITHIN THE COLLECTIVE. THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES WE WANT TO PURSUE."

- Sara Conrad, co-chair of Laurier chapter of the Miss G\_ Project

One such volunteer, Bryn Ossington, explains that he is skeptical yet hopeful after hearing the Minis-

ter's promise, saying, "The Minister has basically made a commitment to make a commitment."

Conrad is optimistic regarding the latest announcement, saying that she feels the course will eventually be established, though in the meantime says, "I think it's important for Miss G\_ and the wider community to stay on top of the issue and keep the pressure on. This isn't the first time promises have been made."

From Conrad's perspective, the need for a WGS course has never been greater. She cites reports by the Canadian Mental Health Association as well as the recently released Falconer Report, and says, "It's getting worse."

"Issues like bullying, sexual harassment and a general dissatisfaction with one's own identity are all experienced in high schools.

Students need a safe space where they can talk about these things, and look at these issues from a critical perspective," said Conrad.

The Falconer Report, which was released in January

2008, was a study that focused on problems within Toronto schools. The report found that sexual assault

and harassment were distressingly widespread in the halls of the high schools examined, and the authors of the report advised the Toronto District School Board to "develop a sexual assault and gender-based violence policy" in order to combat these issues.

Could a WGS course be part of such a policy? According to the Miss G\_ website, the proposed course would address "issues of sexism, homophobia, gender roles, violence and harassment, as well as infuse information about women's history, writing and experiences in the curriculum."

As Ossington explains, "Conceptions of male/female gender roles work into a fabric of inequality and discrimination." He feels that a WGS course would "combat hate and fear by giving people an understanding of something other than their own."

Until the course becomes a reality, the Miss G\_ Project organizers show no signs of backing down. They intend to work closely with the Ministry of Education in developing the course and ensuring that it is effective and successful, and have several future causes in mind as well.

"This is one project within the collective. There are so many other ideas and activities we want to pursue," describes Conrad.

## Negotiations to start this Thursday

- FROM CAS, COVER

"The fact that WLUFA was prepared to write a joint response with us to the student open letter, I think that's a very positive sign," stated Horton.

"And I think there've been informal discussions between WLUFA and the university over the course of this week and that's always helpful," she added.

Should a settlement be made between WLUFA and the university, Bates noted that CAS members would be ready to get back to work as soon as possible.

"That's been the purpose all along, to get a settlement and get back to the classroom," said Bates.

However, she adds there would be a period necessary for both sides to ratify the settlement, and its duration could vary. As well, a back-to-work protocol would have to be created, outlining how classes would resume.

In order to ensure this sort of a protocol to get CAS back teaching as quickly as possible if both sides settled, Horton plans to put forth a motion to the Senate, who will be meeting again next Monday at 4 pm.

Should a settlement be reached early enough to be ratified by Monday, Horton and university administration have created a motion placing two days of classes on Tuesday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 9.

Horton explains that on Monday, students would have their Friday classes, on Tuesday, students would have their Tuesday and Thursday classes, and on Wednes-

day, students would have their Monday and Wednesday classes.

"It would give students enough contact with their instructor to be given final instructions as to what would be included on the final exam ... and any outstanding work could be turned in," said Horton.

Horton explains that she had extensive discussions with various individuals, and based on those discussions, she came to the conclusion that students would rather write their exams at the allotted time than have the period extended.

"It's not perfect, but I think it will work and I think it will meet most of the needs," she said.

"However, it's contingent on us settling and the members ratifying it," she adds.

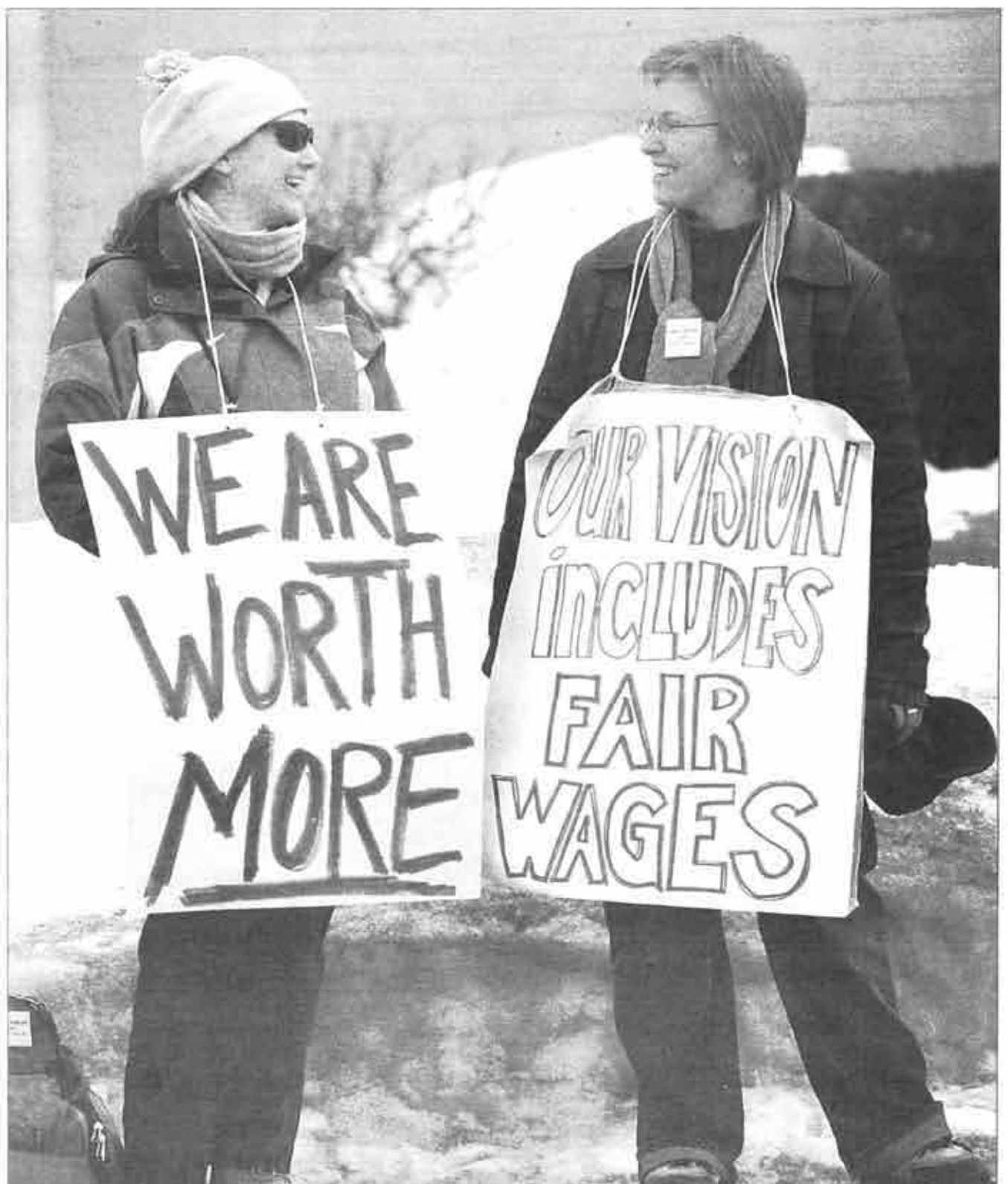
Horton explains that the university is very committed to getting a fair agreement.

"We are prepared to work very hard to get an agreement, as long as it's consistent with academic integrity," said Horton.

Though some debate has recently occurred over which side pushed for the resumption of negotiations to commence on the set Thursday bargaining date, president of WLU Max Blouw explains it was a mutual agreement.

"The normal bargaining dates in the past were Thursday and Friday," stated Blouw, noting also that, "it's the day on which the mediator is available to come in."

Blouw also noted that his primary hope is getting an agreement as soon as possible: "I'm hoping for a settlement – that goes without saying."



SYDNEY HELLAND

STAYING POSITIVE - Morale on the CAS picket line has remained positive throughout the part-time strike.



# CANADAIN BRIEF

## Concordia part-timers on strike

### Montreal, QC

Part-time teachers at Concordia University have followed Laurier's lead and announced at a press conference last Wednesday that they will be going on strike.

There are 900 part-time faculty members teaching 40 percent of the classes at Concordia.

The Concordia Union of Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA) has asked for wages equal to those of the full-time staff.

CUPFA have been without a contract since 2002 and are eager for the administration to meet their requests.

Starting next week, 20 classes will be cancelled in attempts to reach an agreement without drastic measures. If the administration fails to respond, the number will increase and exams may be interrupted.

## Court throws out lawsuit on fees

### Toronto, ON

A lawsuit issued last June against all 24 of Ontario's public colleges was rescinded this past Friday.

The \$200 million suit looked to force colleges to stop enforcing ancillary fees on students, but Honourable Madam Justice Joan L. Lax of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice found that the issue of fees is "the responsibility of the government, not the Court."

An automatic right to appeal is the next step for the plaintiffs, as they will look at how much further they can actually push the issue.

According to a press release, representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students have scheduled a meeting for this week with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, to raise concerns regarding high

tuition fees, prohibited ancillary fees and the government's chronic under-funding of Ontario's public colleges.

## Controversy hits campus newspaper

### Ottawa, ON

The University of Ottawa Engineering Students' Society (ESS) finds itself in some hot water after publishing an article and cartoon in a regular mock sex-advice column called "Ask the Keepers".

The article, which is being criticized for inciting violence against women, is the third piece this year that has appeared in the monthly newspaper, *The Oral Otis*, to cause an uproar.

The article is said to have "depicted disabled people in a reproachful way", according to the *Charlatan*, Ottawa's campus newspaper. An editorial touched on the

subject of "how to crack a lesbian".

The Student Federation at the University of Ottawa is now considering reducing the student levy for the *Oral Otis* by a percentage to be determined no later than April 6.

## York sexual assaults

### Toronto, ON

York University has been the locale for yet another sexual assault – the fifth one this year to be exact.

Having made headlines in early September when two girls were assaulted in their dorm rooms while they slept, York was the site for three more assaults in early January. The most recent one to grip campus was the assault of a woman on March 16 by a middle-aged man at approximately 2:20 pm on the north end of its campus.

The Sexual Assault Supporters Line has started offering free "safety whistles" after the incident.

## York student protest successful

### Toronto, ON

York University president Mamdouh Shoukri will be addressing the concerns of students by developing a code for sweatshop policy.

The agreement came on the heels of a sit-in protest by students on March 7 that ended up with 10 students sleeping in front of the president's office overnight.

According to the university's student newspaper, the *Excalibur*, York University's Sustainable Purchasing Coalition (SPC) was calling for "change in monitoring practices for the manufacturing of York apparel and goods."

The group also presented a petition with approximately 1,100 signatures, in support of their cause.

- Compiled by Chloe Arbutina and Dan Polischuk

## Tuition freeze in the province of New Brunswick

### Wolfville, NB

New Brunswick's provincial government has announced a tuition freeze for all university students in its latest provincial budget.

According to *The Concordian*, the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), which represents 16,000 students from six campuses, feels that the \$12 million proposed for financial assistance for universities is not addressing the real issue.

The average tuition fee for a New Brunswick university student is \$5,733 per year, which is above the national average of \$4,524.

## Provincial budget comes up short

### Toronto, ON

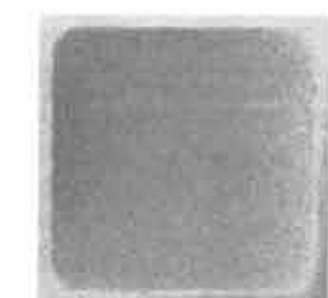
The Ontario Liberals presented a new budget that will focus on post-secondary education last week. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, discussed a three-year, \$1.5 billion "skills to jobs" action plan.

A textbook and technology grant has been a centre point of this new budget as well, which costs \$300 million dollars.

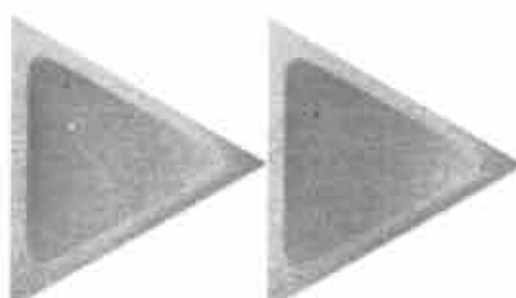
The real issue, according to The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), which represents 15,000 faculty members across the province, is not textbooks or technology, but the need for academic staff, reports the Canadian University Press.

The budget also leaves out financial aid concerns affecting university students.

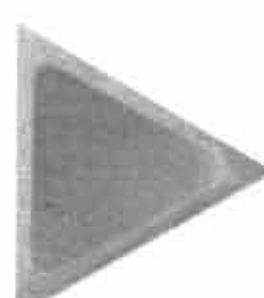
The OCUFA believe that the only way to properly enhance student education is to fix the student-to-teacher ratio before spending millions on unnecessary new buildings.



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## Bag o' Crime

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### Crime of the Week

**Reported:**  
March 28 @ 9:02 am

An email was received from a professor reporting an incident about a group of people dressed in Star Wars apparel and disrupting his class in the Arts building. The group was observed on the video recording in the area. The investigation is complete until further evidence is made available.

[www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com)

### Part-time faculty strike: Day 9

While visiting the picket lines, **Laura Carlson** and **Rebecca Vasluianu** speak to both full-time and part-time faculty protesters and a representative from the Canadian Association of University Teachers to get their perspective on the importance of the current CAS strike.

### Part-time faculty strike: Day 11

**Laura Carlson** attends a Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, at which they discuss plans put forward by the Union to deal with how the strike has been affecting students. A Student Day of Action is currently planned for this Monday.

### Part-time faculty strike: Day 12

**Rebecca Vasluianu** attends another large scale protest held this past Friday in response to the CAS strike. She speaks to representatives in light of the information that Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) will be returning to the bargaining table this upcoming Thursday.

### Part-time faculty strike: Day 13

**Laura Carlson** and **Rebecca Vasluianu** speak to individuals who have faced consequences for choosing to visually support part-time faculty members.

Visit [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com) for **Sydney Helland's** photo galleries of the strike.

### CORD/ONLINE

> [cordweekly.com](http://cordweekly.com)  
> News

### AW@L strikes again

Student activists "celebrate" Fossil Fuels Day, reports **Dan Polischuk**.

*It's the last **Cord** of the year ... but not our last story!*

Visit [www.CordWeekly.com](http://www.CordWeekly.com) regularly for continuing CAS strike coverage until a deal is reached.

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# News-makers 07-08

As a year rife with controversy comes to a close, from striking professors to the various difficulties encountered by the Students' Union, *The Cord* looks back and highlights the most significant stories, examining their impact on the Laurier community

## 1. Laurier Part-timers strike

On March 19 at 6:01 am, contract academic staff (CAS) at Laurier walked off the job, which has resulted in the cancellation of many of the classes that the 365 part-time professors teach. The strike began after the breakdown of a long round of negotiations, which started when the collective agreement for CAS members expired at the end of August.

When even a conciliator could not aid talks between the university and the Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association (WLUFA) bargaining teams, the WLUFA executive requested a "No Board" report. This occurred on March 1, legally allowing the group to call a strike approximately two weeks later.

The main issues of contention for

both sides are salary and seniority, and the WLUFA bargaining team refused to return to the negotiating table until better offers were made with regard to those issues.

Worth noting is the fact that student protests, including rallies, a petition with 2750 signatures, a walk-in to university administration offices and massive rallies organized by WLUFA occurred both prior to and throughout the course of the strike.

While the two groups have agreed to return to negotiations tomorrow, it is still unknown what will happen to the students regarding their individual academic credits, and when a settlement will be reached.

- Rebecca Vasluianu



SYDNEY HELLAND

**SUPPORTING STRIKERS** - Since CAS walked off the job, many rallies have been held on the WLU campus.



SYDNEY HELLAND

**PRESIDENTIAL DEBACLE** - After the disqualification of Brian Punambolam (left), Colin LeFevre (right) won a run-off election by 97 votes.

## 2. WLUSU elections

This year saw one of the most contentious and highly publicized elections in the history of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU).

After accumulating too many campaign-related fines, presidential hopeful Brian Punambolam was removed from the race after a decision was made by the Appellate Committee to overturn his appeal.

Once the decision was made, five days after the initial February 7 election, the ballots were counted, though no votes for Punambolam

were to be used.

A decision by the WLUSU Board of Directors (BOD) during an in-camera session at an emergency board meeting resulted in the BOD deciding to hold a re-election between the two remaining candidates: Ross Fraser and Colin LeFevre.

The process was further complicated because there were no election policies in place regarding what should be done in the case of a disqualification, there was little transparency from the Union re-

garding the issues at hand and the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) had little training regarding how to fulfill the duties of his position.

Three weeks after the initial election day, the re-election took place - which saw LeFevre come out victorious with 751 student votes (just 97 more than Fraser).

With 11.01 percent of WLU students casting their votes in the second election, this was the lowest voter turnout in over a decade.

- Laura Carlson

## 3. Varsity athletics

Laurier sports fans were witness to plenty of excitement on the fields, courts and ice this past year, including expected championships and shocking upsets.

Beginning in the fall, Laurier's perennially strong football team dropped off their playoff trail early, losing to Guelph and preventing a fifth consecutive appearance at the Yates Cup.

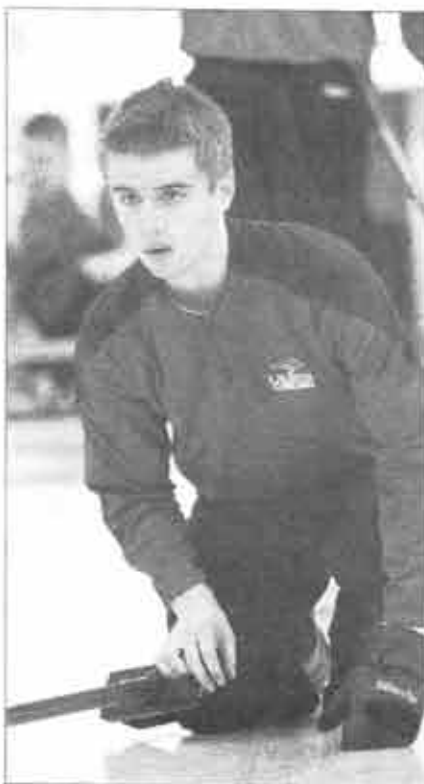
This upset was followed shortly by a fifth consecutive Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship win by the women's lacrosse team, as they went undefeated for the season.

The women's hockey team continued to show their dominance on the ice as they, too, claimed their fifth consecutive OUA title, earn-

ing them a berth in the national tournament in Ottawa. The Hawks proceeded to upset their western rivals, the Alberta Pandas, to make their way to the gold medal game. Unfortunately, they fell just short, losing 2-0 and returning home with a silver medal.

Perhaps the biggest shock of the year was a double-gold victory at the OUA curling championships, which set up a dominating performance from the men's rink at nationals and a shocking comeback upset by the women at the same tournament. Both rinks took home gold medals at the inaugural national tournament, an extremely rare feat in university sport.

- Lauren Millet



RYAN STEWART

**WE ROCK** - WLU won four Ontario and two national titles this year.

## 4. Homophobia

During a concert at Wilf's on November 8, the lead singer and namesake from the band Casey Baker and the Buffalo Sinners began screaming homophobic comments during the band's performance, after an audience member mooned him.

Baker yelled things such as "Fuck you, you fuckin' faggots. You're a bunch of faggoty faggots, you're a bunch of assholes - don't show me your asshole."

The band was removed from the stage immediately and the Students' Union assured Laurier that the band would not be permitted to return to campus to play again.

- Laura Carlson



RILEY TAYLOR

**NOT OK** - When homophobia hit Wilf's, students and staff displayed uniform disgust.



## 5. Ancillary fees and referendums

After an eight-month evaluation that came on the heels of a \$200 million lawsuit put forth to the provincial government to prohibit ancillary fees on the college level, WLUSU decided it was time to evoke some change itself on dealing with student fees.

After the issue remained in-camera with the BOD for a lengthy time, it was ultimately decided that a referendum question would be put forth during this year's student elections, outlining the possibility of having a \$15 per-semester fee tacked onto tuition rates rather than continue with the previous rates – which saw science students

hit the hardest with having to pay upwards of \$100 per term in fees.

After much delay – due to the controversy surrounding the presidential results – it was announced that the new system was approved by 74.5 percent of voters, despite the fact that there were no "Yes" or "No" campaigns for the referendum.

While the redesigned format seems to be a lot more structured, the path to implementing it was a frustrating one, as student groups had their funds frozen by WLUSU. Specifically targeted were the Arts Students' Advancement Program (ASAP), the Science and Technology Endowment Program (STEP)

and the SBE Students' Council.

This year, 75.5 percent of Waterloo campus undergraduate students also voted to remove the term "undergraduate" from the Letters Patent and By-Laws of WLUSU, which would allow WLUSU to represent graduate students if they so chose.

This referendum was not successful, as the majority of students who voted chose not to accept the question. Fifty-seven students voted yes, while 95 students said no. WLUSU will not represent graduate students in the future.

- Dan Polischuk

## 6. Matt Park and the WLUSU board



SYDNEY HELLAND

**BOD ISSUES** - Park and the BOD drew the attention of students.

Throughout the course of the year, the former chair of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) BOD, Matt Park, and the board itself, have both garnered attention and scrutiny from directors and students alike.

The first issue arose during the summer, when a \$19,000 honorarium for Park was put in the budget as a recommendation from staff, without any discussion at the board level.

Directors raised concern about this, but ultimately decided to approve the expense at the annual summer budget meeting.

Surprisingly, just prior to the Christmas break, Park decided to step down from his position as chair, and the board elected second-time director Jon Champagne as his replacement.

Less than a month after his res-

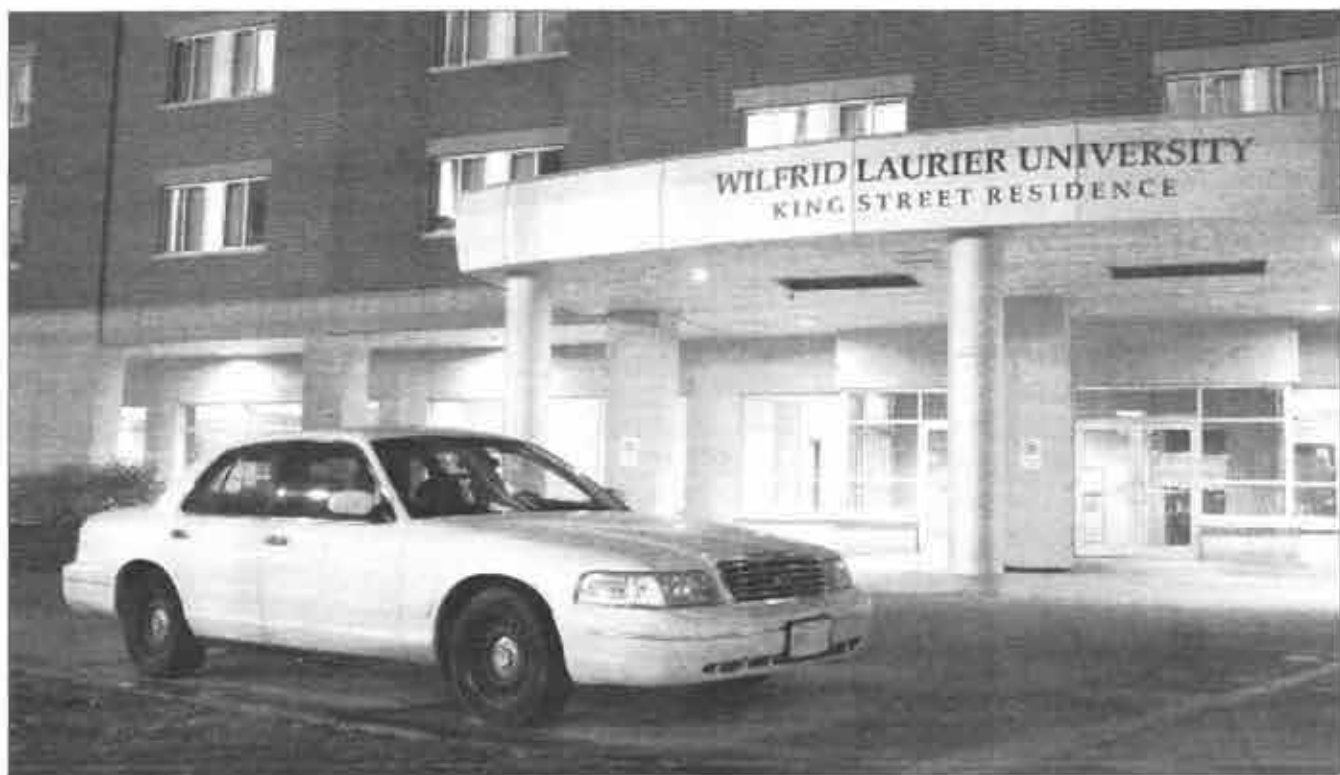
ignation as chair, Park was hired by WLUSU as a part-time staff member – meaning he also had to give up his role as a director.

Though there was no public posting of the position or job description, Park was quickly hired under the working title of "Policy and Governance Co-ordinator" by WLUSU President Dan Allison, to assist with elections and other ad hoc assignments.

Shortly following this hire, students expressed concern at a bi-weekly BOD meeting, yet the board failed to address the issue in an open debate.

Transition to policy governance and a lack of training have been cited by directors as contributing factors to issues of board ineffectiveness.

- Laura Carlson



PAUL ALVIZ

**KEYS STOLEN** - Security concerns at King Street Residence left many students fearful for their safety.

## 7. King St. Residence security issues

After an unidentified male broke into King St. Residence in mid-November and stole a master set of keys to the building, additional means of security were taken to help ensure the safety of students.

The man entered a don's room in the middle of the night, stole a bag with the keys in it and then attempted to re-access the room shortly thereafter.

Residents of King St. were informed about the incident several days later, and some students even left the residence because they feared for their safety.

New cameras were installed in the building and extra security guards were placed in front of the residence until all the locks were changed – a long process, which took just over a week from the day

the keys were stolen.

Other issues on campus relating to security and property damage resulted in the Science Building seeing a drastic decline in hours. Several other thefts from residences and student homes in the community were also reported throughout the course of the year.

- Laura Carlson



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO - JACOB PRIES

**PEACE MOVEMENT** - AW@L protests brought war into the limelight.

## 8. Plenty of AW@L

Anti-War @ Laurier (AW@L), which originated last year as a working group with Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG), has since received much attention for various protests, rallies and events.

The most publicized issue involving AW@L occurred when four of its members took part in a "No Wars, No Warming" conference held in Washington and had their car seized as part of a criminal investigation by the District of Columbia police.

The three Laurier students and one recent alumnus had their travel identification in the car and thus were not permitted to return to Canada until nearly a week after they were planning on leaving the United States.

Nearly a month after it was originally seized, the car was returned to the owner and no charges were laid.

Another highly controversial event organized by AW@L in-

cluded a protest at a local arms manufacturer, which resulted in LSPIRG cutting ties with the group.

Other events organized by the group included critical mass bike rides throughout Kitchener-Waterloo, an anti-war protest on Remembrance Day, a march into a Liberal press conference, at which party leader Stéphane Dion was speaking at and a protest against Grand & Toy.

More recently, members from the group travelled to Guelph in anticipation of the arrival of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who was due to open a new Conservative party office.

One individual was held in police custody for four and half hours and issued a trespassing ticket when he climbed onto the roof of the building and attempted to unfurl a sign that read "Stop the War Machine".

- Laura Carlson

## 9. WLUSU renovations

Two big capital expenditures approved by the Students' Union board this year ended up costing students \$140,700 in fees.

The first big purchase was the new Golden Hawk logo, which had been removed from the floor of the Fred Nichols Campus Center (FNCC) last year because of renovations.

The recommendations for the purchase came from WLUSU president Dan Allison, with a bill of \$10,700.

After the marble emblem was delayed in Italy, it was installed in the Hall of Fame during Reading Week and received mixed reviews from students upon its arrival.

The board also approved



ALEX HAYTER

a \$130,000 renovation to the Turret's Hawk's Nest, though preparation for this was mostly dealt with by the previous year's executives.

- Laura Carlson

## 10. OneCard's long audit

After rumours surfaced about activities taking place in the OneCard office, the university contacted external auditors KPMG to conduct a forensic audit. The lengthy process began on November 8 and the final report was not completed until nearly four months later, on February 28.

Though the results of the audit are currently not available to the

public, a restriction that the university cites as being the result of Human Resource regulations, the manager of the OneCard office, Nick Tomljenovic, is no longer an employee of the university.

Administration assures that there was no fraudulent activity with student money.

- Laura Carlson



# John Manley discusses Afghanistan at UW

Former Minister of Finance reiterates that Afghan mission was inevitable and that "the end result, however, will never be perfect"

DAN POLISCHUK  
NEWS EDITOR

He may not have an official role to play in the current Canadian political landscape, but that doesn't mean that John Manley hasn't remained in the spotlight.

First elected into Parliament in 1988, the Liberal party member played a role in the country's governance up until 2003 when he held the role of Finance Minister.

With the Conservatives now

leading the country with a minority government, it came as a surprise when Manley was asked by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to chair the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan.

Manley presented some of the group's findings yesterday in a speech given at the University of Waterloo's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of the Library lecture.

Speaking to the gathering at Hagey Hall, he explained how the report outlines two key findings:

that the soldiers are working in difficult circumstances and that Canada's "presence in Afghanistan is fully justified."

Commenting on the fact that the troop deployment is the largest the country has had to offer since the Korean War, Manley stated, "If we're not willing to lend our military resources when we're asked by NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] ... then exactly when would we send them?"

"And what would be the circum-

stances under which we would engage?"

While speaking of the strides the country has made in terms of improving human rights – especially for women – the official remarked that many bureaucratic obstacles remain.

**"WE HAD NO DELUSIONS ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CHALLENGE."**

**- Former Liberal MP John Manley, referring to the scale of the Afghanistan mission and its need to continue.**

the end of the tunnel for the Asian nation.

He called for a greater effort in diplomacy, development and a dedicated effort to curb "rampant corruption." The end result, however, will never be perfect. "Afghanistan, at best, is going to be Afghanistan – pretty rough," said Manley.

"You just have to accept that the world can be a little bit messy," he added.

And for the skeptics who argue that the Canadian mis-

sion in the country only evolved because of the September 11 attacks on the United States, Manley wasn't offering any support.

"We were going to have to do something about Afghanistan," he said, describing the harsh conditions in place during the Taliban's rule. "9/11 just precipitated it."

With troops and aid workers firmly entrenched until at least the beginning of the next decade, Manley stressed how "we had no delusions about the complexities of the challenge" – which seemed to carry an underlying appeal for patience from the Canadian public.

"The mission is too important to allow [it] to fail."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PANEL** - John Manley and his fellow panelists recommended that Canada extend its mission until 2011.

## So what if I can't vote - I can hope



ADIL DHALLA  
CORD INTERNATIONAL

It has become such a recurring conversation that it eventually came without surprise when someone would remind me that I was incapable of voting. It was the fall of 2007 and, after work, I would spend my time volunteering for the Brooklyn chapter of the Barack Obama campaign.

I attended anti-war rallies in Brooklyn, registered new voters in Harlem and made campaign calls to churches in the Deep South. To be honest, I enjoyed the reminders of my non-voter status because it inevitably allowed me to shed light on my motives. I could share with people that I was not volunteering for a campaign, but that I was simply part of a movement.

Although complex in nature, movements are often guided by very simplistic ideals. For example, many of our parents were involved in history-altering movements that were built upon calls for peace and free love. Our grandparents participated in similarly important movements for democracy and social equality.

Although our story has yet to be written, one day history will chronicle our generation's movement

and refer to the significance of the first post-Baby Boomer president as a vital indication of the lasting change we created.

Obama's critics have tried to derail his candidacy by claiming he doesn't have enough experience. But the experience they speak of is from a world of politics that has been characterized by partisan bickering, violent foreign policy, corruption, deceit and power for the few and privileged. Raise your hand if you, like me, would rather your leaders not have experience in this political world.

If you look at the massive increase in voting by the youth generation in the current nomination, you'll find a lot of other people echoing our feelings. It's not that experience isn't an asset, but it's the *right* type of experience that we value.

Evidently, Obama's multi-racial background and years spent working in the community is the type of experience that we believe will best prepare our generation's leaders. It is the type of experience that best reflects a globalized world and the diverse mix of people that our generation is composed of.

I remember watching Obama speak under the arches at Washington Square as he countered those who criticized him for being a "hope monger" by asking, "Since when was it a negative to have too much hope in humanity?" I echo that we can never have enough

hope. We can never be too ideal or too grand thinking. If we think in any other way, are we not selling ourselves short of our potential?

Obama matters because he recognizes this fact, and that our generation's time is now. More importantly, he recognizes that it is not about what he can do, but about what we can do. Whether he is humble or just simply very smart, Obama recognizes that change is beyond just one man – it can only be made possible by a movement of people.

It's for these – and other – reasons that Obama matters to me and why I was motivated to volunteer and take action in the best way I knew how.

You don't have to believe in Obama and you probably can't vote in the US elections, but that does not mean you can't play a part in the movement. If you've ever thought to yourself "we need a change", then you have satisfied the only requirement to join.

At the end of the day, we are all motivated by different things. For me, it was Obama, but for you it might be the environment or poverty or a war. But as long as you have hope in the idea that you can make a difference, the story of our generation's legacy will be one that we can be proud of.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**WATCHULOOKINAT** - Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama at one of their many heated debates.





GRAPHIC BY CHRISTINE PARENT

# International flashback '07-'08

## 1 North America

As reported in January, a stimulus package was being decided upon by the US government in an attempt to curb the potential recession in the American economy.

To get the market back on track, last month, President George W. Bush agreed on one-time rebates of up to \$1200 for couples, \$600 for individuals, \$300 for each child in a household and an additional \$300 to low-income earners. Overall, this would generate over \$145 billion in distribution – a plan that has since passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

On paper, the stimulus package appears profitable, but many consider it a quick fix. US News reports that some small business owners have complained that this amount doesn't quite do enough for them.

Regardless of opinion, tax breaks are being given to most businesses, allowing for a temporary sense of relief and a peak in job opportunities.

This process is meant to encourage American consumer spending, creating a boost in the economy. It is an idea that current presidential candidates have begun to pitch to American voters.

- Heather MacDonald,  
Incoming International Editor

## 2 South America

Long known as a home to corrupt governments, impoverished villages and shoddy economic performance, Latin America now appears to be making a comeback. Today, this cluster of countries is witnessing an increase in prosperity along with the emergence of a remarkably wealthy middle class.

This concept of "middle class" is groundbreaking for the South American region, whose historic divide between rich and poor had previously appeared relatively unalterable.

Ultimately, the current economic turn-

around is responsible for lifting millions out of poverty and ensuring the demise of the former class system.

While Chile leads in growth, other South American countries are close behind. All have experienced booming economic success linked to internal economic reform, strong export markets and declining birth rates.

Despite this progress, BBC News reports that 25 percent of Latin America's 560 million people continue to survive on less than two dollars a day.

Therefore, although the notoriety has been subdued, there is still much progress to be made in this area of the world.

- Paula Millar, Cord International

## 3 Europe

On February 5, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) hosted guest speaker Sven Biscop who spoke on the topic of the EU's "holistic" approach to international governance, replicating the EU's member countries. This, he explained, entails that a nation's government provides its citizens with rights and public services, which everyone is entitled to.

He noted that the most significant improvements that need to be made lie among certain civil liberties: physical security and freedom from fear, access to health services, development projects, and human rights.

Another measure suggested by Biscop to avoid a failing state is closing the economic gap between various strata of society.

Biscop further suggested that interaction is a crucial aspect of the approach – both within the EU and with external countries.

The plan entails the avoidance of working independently and incorporating a strategy for external interactions.

He stressed that in order to be effective, all approaches must be properly implemented on top of better advocating the strategy.

- Mara Silvestri, Staff Writer

## 4 Africa

On Thursday, January 24, 2008, Martha Kuwee Kumsa, Ethiopian journalist and WLU professor for the Faculty of Social Work, spoke at a forum about the ten years she spent in prison for the sole reason that she was educated and outspoken.

Kumsa was dragged from work one day to a prison in Ethiopia where she and many other educated people, including her brother, were tortured day after day.

Throughout the ten years she spent in jail, Kumsa saw her friends being starved, raped and killed. Yet somehow she managed to keep her faith in humanity.

When Kumsa was finally freed due to the work of Amnesty International, she moved to Canada.

Some years later, in an attempt at justice, she was shown a video, taken of one of the prison guards being tortured to death.

Unlike so many of her vengeful friends, Kumsa decided at that moment that "no human being should go through this."

Kumsa suggested that, "If we're always looking for the evil out there, the evil will continue within ourselves."

- Heather MacDonald,  
Incoming International Editor

## 5 Asia

The political unrest in Burma – also known as Myanmar – has intensified since August 2007, has since led to the detainment of 1200 individuals, including 700 Buddhist monks. BBC News reported that the monks protested in response to the government's role in leading the state into poverty over the last 50 years.

The military junta used physical force against the rebellious citizens. According to pro-democracy groups, the result was a death toll of hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

The continued violence led the government to cut communication in and around Burma, thus keeping the international community uninformed.

BBC News reports that all outgoing phone calls and Internet access was prohibited, and journalists were banned from entering the country.

The only information available to the world at large was through communication from citizens sending messages through relatives and friends abroad, who would in turn forward information to the media.

- Ashley Doodnauth, Staff Writer

## 6 Australia

Despite a ban on all forms of whaling, instituted in 1986 by the International Whaling Commission, Japan made headlines again this year by invading Australia's Antarctic waters in the process of hunting whales.

As reported by Reuters news, the Japanese maintained that they were killing the whales solely for scientific purposes, in order to further their whaling research program, which intends to gather data about whale populations. The hunt, which began in November 2007, was set to claim up to 1000 whales.

The Australian government has formally denounced the Japanese program, demanding that the hunt be stopped. A customs patrol ship and aircraft were dispatched to monitor the Japanese whaling fleet.

Various environmental organizations also attempted to halt the hunters, with two protestors actually boarding a Japanese whaling vessel with the intention of interfering with the hunt.

The two activists were members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a US-based environmental group opposed to the whaling practices.

- Jennifer Rae, Staff Writer

## 7 Antarctica

In October of 2007, former US Vice President Al Gore shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for their efforts in educating the world on the effects of global warming.

Because of various studies done on the changing climate of our world, many people are becoming more vocal about their stance in protecting the Earth. Al Gore, Leonardo DiCaprio, John Mayer and many other celebrities and organizations (such as Muchmusic) have all made their voices heard in an attempt to stop global warming.

The effects of global warming thus far have proved to be deadly for polar bears and the flora and fauna that inhabit the northern and southern-most parts of the Earth. Ice caps in both Antarctica and the Arctic Circle are melting, creating less hunting surface for Arctic polar bears in particular. This forces them to swim for miles on end in search of food, before dying of exhaustion.

With Al Gore's rejection to run for office again, he stated, as reported by MSNBC, that he was more focused on his "campaign to change the way people think about the climate crisis."

- Heather MacDonald,  
Incoming International Editor



# West's stance on Kosovo hypocritical

Kosovo's drug and mafia links often overlooked



**DRAZO KRAISHNIK**  
WLU SERBIAN STUDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

Kosovo's Albanians have been shown by the Western media as victims of an oppressive and genocidal Serbian regime. Pictures of dead or fleeing Albanians shocked the Western world, which eventually led to NATO's bombing of Serbia, followed by Kosovo's recent unilateral declaration of independence.

It's important to know that many believe that the West has undermined its values by supporting a mafia-terrorist group in its quest for power, which has aided in the avoidance of negotiations that ultimately led to the violation of Serbia's sovereignty.

There are many examples of this manipulation present in the media if we only look at the right information. For example, Canadian General Louis Mackenzie, correspondent in Serbia for CTV during NATO's bombings there, stated in his recent interview with CTV that the Racak massacre which set off the NATO bombing "was a staged event by the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army)."

Similarly, during a recent CTV interview, James Bissett, former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania, stated, "I think the UN figures are pretty clear that most of the so-called ethnic cleansing of Kosovo started after the NATO bombing commenced. Prior to that, there were several thousand people displaced because of the fighting between the KLA and Serbian security forces. But the mass exodus occurred after the bombing commenced."

It is clear from these examples that there was extensive manipulation of information, which was used to persuade the West into helping the Albanians achieve independence.

The Kosovo Liberation Army has been portrayed in the Western media as a patriotic freedom movement comprised of ethnic Albanians fighting against the oppressive Serbian government.

What has not been widely publicized is that the KLA was funded by Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden during terrorist operations against Serbs in Kosovo.

In an article published in 1999, *The Washington Times* stated that,

"many border crossings into Kosovo by 'foreign fighters' also have been documented and include veterans of the militant group Islamic Jihad from Bosnia, Chechnya and Afghanistan." Serbia was fighting terrorism before the US, yet Serbia was bombed for it, only perpetuating the hypocrisy.

Similarly, former Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and US Department of Justice agent Michael Levine stated in an interview with *The New American Magazine* in 1999 that the KLA is "tied in with every known middle and far-eastern drug cartel. Interpol and Europol ... have files open on drug syndicates that lead right to the KLA, and right to Albanian gangs in this country."

What is most intriguing is that KLA leaders are now the heads of state in the newly independent Kosovo. So what NATO and Canada have essentially helped create is a state headed by international terrorists, drug lords and war criminals.

Following "failed negotiations" between Serbian and Albanian delegates, the Albanian minority in Serbia, but majority in Kosovo, declared independence from Serbia.

How did the negotiations fail? How was there no possibility for compromise? Milos Jovanovic, a member of the Serbian negotiating team, visited WLU in December (along with Bissett) as part of an informative lecture and explained that there were, in fact, no negotiations.

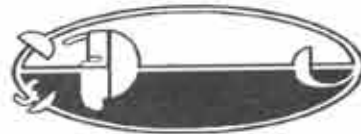
"We offered [the Albanians] the greatest form of autonomy any state could give," said Jovanovic. "Almost all of our offers were acceptable for them but, after they considered our proposals with the Americans, the negotiations ended. They ended because from that point on they only talked about independence and not compromise."

Serbia handed over dictator Slobodan Milosevic to The Hague, accepted a capitalist economy, and was promised a new era of democracy and freedom by the West. It did not deserve to be humiliated by the "champions of freedom and democracy."

Instead of supporting a new democratic Serbia, the West has chosen to side with Islamic terrorists in their bid for Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Excelsior Fencing Club



Take a stab at something different. The Excelsior Fencing Club is approaching its 25th year in Kitchener Waterloo as a fun and challenging sport for all ages and abilities. Fencing has been a modern Olympic sport since 1896 and with the approaching Olympics, it's a great way to show your support for our athletes.

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## Saving Mohamed Kohail

A movement to save the Canadian citizen, imprisoned in Saudi Arabia since January 2007, from execution has emerged in Montreal among students

**RITA CANT**  
THE LINK (CONCORDIA)

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Students at the Université de Montréal and Concordia University are doing what they can to expose the world to Mohamed Kohail before his time runs out.

The Canadian citizen is in jail in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, awaiting either Canadian intervention or Saudi execution by beheading.

"A lot of people are worried about such sentencing," said Rana Saheb, one of the students launching a new campaign to pressure the Canadian government to intervene.

Support for the Save Mohamed campaign, launched by Saheb and two other Université de Montréal students, has flooded in from across Canada.

Pamela Eid and Golmehr Attaran, who attended high school with Mohamed in Dorval, are coordinating a demonstration at Parliament Hill on March 23 to help keep Mohamed's name in the public sphere.

Saheb has also been lobbying behind the scenes in Ottawa to raise the political will that could lead to clemency for Kohail.

Kohail's case revolves around a schoolyard brawl after he and his brother moved to Saudi Arabia with their family last year.

The fight turned deadly and Kohail was accused of murdering Saudi Munzer Hiraki and sentenced to death.

His brother, Sultan, is on bail awaiting his sentence.

Kohail's supporters are now fighting to have him brought back to Canada.

"We have the facts saying he did not go through a fair trial," says Attaran. She and Eid both study law at U de M and believe international law is the key to saving Mohamed.

"He's from Palestine and Palestinians don't have status. The only status he has in this world is his Canadian status."

Canadians are responding to the issue, and the organizers said that they are surprised at some of the support coming from complete strangers.

Maurice Mansour, a close friend of the Kohails since they moved to Montreal eight years ago, said the family — two girls, two boys and their parents — are also overwhelmed.

Eid and Attaran have invited

Mansour to attend the peaceful demonstration at Parliament Hill, intended to remind Canadians and their government that the Kohails belong to a country that has abolished capital punishment.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is reportedly seeking clemency in the case, the Kohail family said that they feel remarkably out of touch.

"Initially the family was concerned they weren't getting proper support from the consular services," Gaipman said, but added, "sometimes quiet diplomacy behind the scenes, so everyone can save face, is more effective."

He says his students are planning a full assembly to present Members of Parliament with their petition, which bears signatures demanding intervention to save the "very pleasant, very polite kid."

"We're trying to keep this awareness way up."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**SAVE MOHAMED** - Protestors have been active at Parliament Hill.



# NOW WHAT?

YOU MEAN NOBODY TOLD YOU  
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



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# The boys are back in town

With the start of Major League Baseball upon us, here is a look at what is expected of the teams to come out of each division

## National League



RAYMOND GIU  
STAFF WRITER

### East

In the East division, the New York Mets are the favourites to win. The Mets traded for two-time Cy Young winner Johan Santana over the off-season. Santana and Pedro Martinez give the Mets arguably the best pitching duo in Major League Baseball.

They will also field young studs Jose Reyes and David Wright, who are a year older and entering their primes. If not for the disastrous meltdown they had last season, they were a threat to win the World Series, and with the same team coming back, the Mets are definitely the team to beat in the National League.

The Phillies will be fielding a solid team that is only missing pitching to be a top team. With the core of Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Jimmy Rollins, they'll have no trouble scoring, but the question is if they can stop others from doing so.

### Central

In the Central, the Chicago Cubs kept their solid pitching crew together and added Japanese star

Kosuke Fukudome to a lineup that already features Alfonso Soriano, Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez. The other four teams in this division are depending on youngsters or average players.

Although young, the Brewers have steadily improved each year and I see them ridding themselves of the inconsistency that plagued them in the 2007 season. If everything falls into place and their young players continue to improve, they can usurp the Cubs' spot as the division winner this year.

The Reds are also depending on their youngsters to get them over the hump, most notably Canadian first baseman Joey Votto and home-grown pitcher Homer Bailey.

### West

Lastly, the West division will be led by the wonderfully built Arizona Diamondbacks, who come back this season with the same core while adding the services of Dan Haren.

If the Diamondbacks can replace their star closer Jose Valverde, who left for Houston, they will easily run away with the West.

The Rockies will be the biggest competitor for this division, as the same core players are coming back that engineered the insane streak that led them to the World Series last season. They will most likely challenge for the wild card spot against tough teams like Atlanta and Philadelphia.



## American League



CHRIS BALUSCHAK  
STAFF WRITER

### East

The Boston Red Sox are returning this season as defending World Series Champions, and I anticipate another great season from them. They have great depth at the plate and in the field; however, pitching may be an issue down the stretch.

The Toronto Blue Jays made noise once again this off-season in acquiring third baseman Scott Rolen and shortstop David Eckstein, reuniting the left side of the 2006 World Series Champion infield. If the Jays can stay healthy, and produce a bit more offensively this season, look for them to make the postseason.

The odd man out is the New York Yankees. Offense won't be an issue, but unproven young pitchers may be their Achilles heel.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays will show signs of improvement as years of draft picks begin to pay off.

### Central

With some major acquisitions, the Detroit Tigers may be looking at a World Series run. By adding third baseman Miguel Cabrera, shortstop Edgar Renteria and pitcher

Dontrelle Willis, expect big things from them this season, going deep into the playoffs.

The Cleveland Indians were a pleasant surprise last season. With much of the same squad returning, I envision a great late season battle with Detroit.

The Minnesota Twins lost several key components of their team in the off-season and with a reliance on untested talent throughout the infield, they'll be lucky to break .500.

After earning the titles of worst offense and worst bullpen last season, the Chicago White Sox made some minor changes over the break, but not enough to dig them out of the cellar, which they'll share with the dreadful Kansas City Royals.

### West

This division has no clear winner, but expect a dog fight between the LA Angels and the Seattle Mariners. The Mariners have great pitching including possibly one of the best 1-2 combos in the Majors in Erik Bedard and Felix Hernandez, but lack any power at the plate.

The Angels have the opposite problem with plenty of bats and defense, but pitching injuries could destroy pennant hopes.

The Texas Rangers and Oakland Athletics are both rebuilding, but look for Texas to have a marginally better season.

# Doan to speak at WLU

Olympic gold medalist Catriona Le May Doan finds a fulfilling life after a golden career in sports and talks about motivating women to stand out

DAN POLISCHUK  
NEWS EDITOR

Having capped her speed skating career with a gold medal and a record-setting performance at the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002, there's no arguing that Catriona Le May Doan knows what it's like to be at the top of her game.

Yet it's the way she has transitioned herself in her post-competition days that has made life even better for the mother of four-year-old daughter Greta and wife to husband Bart.

That idea of figuring out "how do you get to be one of the best," as well as how one needs to handle success once it's attained, is one of the key issues that the 37-year-old will be addressing in her speech as the keynote speaker at Thursday afternoon's Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon at the Waterloo

Inn.

Having finished a medal-laden career in speed skating, Le May Doan walked away from competitive racing with a gold medal at the Olympics while also being named Canadian Female Athlete of the Year in that same period.

Now she fills her time doing volunteer work, working for the CBC as a speed skating analyst and fulfilling public speaking requests.

In a telephone interview with *The Cord* this past Thursday, Le May Doan commented how excited she is to be giving a speech at the third annual event.

"Any time you're speaking at an event where others are being honoured ... it's something I'm looking forward to," she said.

When asked what life is like approximately six years after her last competitive race, she explained how, as much as she is work-

ing now, it acts very much like a "break" from the regular routine of caring for their daughter.

"It's also my chance to being fulfilled," said Le May Doan of being able to give speeches, like she will this week, on a regular basis.

"There's nothing better than knowing that you've helped someone," she added.

Asked how she does this through her words, the speed-skating champion explained how she wants to give perspective to the women that will be in the room.

"It's about figuring out whether sport defines you or if it's what you do," she said.

Having noted, in the same breath, that she left the sport "in a good frame of mind," she still notices the differences in certain sports when it comes to males and females.

- SEE CHAMPION, PAGE 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**GOODBYE SPORTS** - A Canadian sporting icon, Catriona leaves behind her love of speed skating and takes on a new role in motivating others.



# A 'Final Four' first

For the first time in March Madness history, all four top seeds square off



**Kansas over UNC  
AND  
Memphis over UCLA**

Kansas showed some signs of weakness against the Cinderella squad from Davidson on Sunday, but look for them to rebound from their scare.

They will learn from their game tape how to cover a one-dimensional team (Davidson) and produce some great defense this week against Tyler Hansbrough.

Memphis may have been the most underrated number one seed the entire tournament, but they are showing their true colours late in the tourney. They laid a spanking on second-ranked Texas on Sunday and definitely showed their ability to play as a team, and a great one at that, Memphis will silence their doubters and produce another outstanding performance.

**FINAL: Kansas over Memphis**

Memphis will have had two great games coming into the finals, but Kansas will prevail as the national champion.

Again, depth and size will lead to plenty of rebounds and inside scoring for the Kansas Jayhawks. Look for Kansas to grind and pound their way to a championship title.



**THIRD TIME'S A CHARM?** - Josh Shipp will have to provide Kevin Love with support if UCLA is to win.



**UNC over Kansas  
AND  
UCLA over Memphis**

Having marched through the year with a combined record of 143-9, this year's Final Four teams have made history. However, only one squad will be able to cut down the nets come April 7.

Watch for UNC to end Kansas' dream season and move on to the finals. UNC's Tyler Hansbrough is the cream of this year's NCAA crop and will help lift the Tar Heels' over the Jayhawks.

Meanwhile, UCLA will down the red-hot Memphis Tigers in one of the most anticipated games of the season. Both teams are playing strong basketball, but now in their third consecutive Final Four, the Bruins will last to play again.



**FINAL: UCLA over UNC**

After a rather disastrous tournament for myself, come Monday, the team I chose to win it all will still be playing. Therefore, there's no reason for me to jump off the bandwagon. And that's why I'm choosing the UCLA Bruins to win it all in a hard-fought game against UNC.

After helping to carry his team with his play, Love has proven that he is one of the most gifted players in UCLA's recent history and is ready to win a championship.



**UNC over Kansas  
AND  
UCLA over Memphis**

With history made during this year's tournament, all first seeds will be battling it out in the Final Four. For North Carolina, they've proven they can blow teams away, and in their last game against Louisville, player of the year Tyler Hansbrough showed he can take over a game and will his team to victory.

In the other game, UCLA has the Final Four experience (advancing the past three seasons), and a legitimate post presence in Kevin Love, to advance to the finals. With Memphis playing exceptionally well, look for UCLA to win, but the game will be decided in the last minute.

**FINAL: UCLA over UNC**

I have a difficult time choosing UNC over UCLA. UNC has the high-powered offense that is nearly impossible to stop, but UCLA just knows how to win. They may not be flashy, but they are very fundamental and all their players know to do the little things in order to win.

Although they failed to win in the finals two years ago, freshman Love has established himself as their go-to guy- the key ingredient they've missed the last two years.

Media Matters


March Madness

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## Your in-depth guide to NCAA March Madness 2008



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## Champion still at the top

- FROM **CHAMPION**, PAGE 14

"For women, it's still a little bit different," she commented, adding that, "even in our day and age, we still have the stereotypes."

Specifically, she referred to something that affected her personally: starting a family. For women, there lies a tremendous amount of pressure in the fact that, once they get to a certain point in their lives, they are at a crossroads when it comes to choosing family life or the sporting life.

Unfortunately, many sports fans are still not sympathetic to points like these.

"It's interesting," noted Le May Doan about how many do not take in this part of the equation when comparing the strength of male versus female sports.

"It's not right or wrong. But what amazes me is that, in 2008, we still have these stereotypes [that women's sport is inferior to men's]."

While she conceded that a decision like choosing a family life is also a struggle for men, it simply does not affect them the way it does women.

**"IT'S NOT RIGHT OR WRONG. BUT WHAT AMAZES ME IS THAT, IN 2008, WE STILL HAVE THESE STEREOTYPES [THAT WOMEN'S SPORTS ARE INFERIOR TO MEN'S]."**

**- Catriona Le May Doan, Olympic gold medalist**

And that is exactly what Le May Doan will be hoping to bring to the forefront with her presentation to the female audience that consider athletics a large part of their lives- especially how one should deal with their life journey as it inevitably becomes a struggle.

On top of that, she hopes to lend some guidance when it comes to helping people decide, "What do you do after [you've reached the top] of your game?"

Appropriately enough, four nominees at the top of their respective sports have been recognized as possible recipients of this year's award.

They are: Lauren Meschino, a five-time OUA gold-medalist with the women's hockey team; Danielle Walker, captain of the women's volleyball team; Carolyn McEwan, captain of the figure skating team; and Frances Minnema, president of Laurier's Women's Athletic Association.

The luncheon begins at noon on Thursday, with former Canadian national soccer team member Helen Stoubos acting as emcee.



# Another y

The Cord commemorates the end of the 2007-08 school year (fond) memories of the year, both with a month-by-month timeline and mentions in the form of Wilfie Awards (right).

## Monthly timeline

DAVE SHORE  
FEATURES EDITOR

### Summer

The city of Waterloo was rewarded this past summer when it was named the world's most intelligent city. However, at WLU, there were less intelligent things going on, with the level of over-enrollment increasing from last year, again forcing many first-years to settle without the residence experience. Students were also frustrated as the online registration system LORIS continued to crash when course selection got underway.

As students returned to campus, they were met with a newly renovated Dr. Alvin Woods Building, a brand new Co-op and Career Center building, and a refurbished stadium. The university also had to clean up the Leupold residence, which was being used as professor offices, after profs complained that mould in the walls was creating inhumane working conditions.

### September

September was a month of bitter rivalries. Homecoming weekend marked a heated men's football rivalry between our Hawks and the Waterloo Warriors, who we crushed 35-3, getting to a 4-0 start on the season.

Even bigger was the rivalry between 50 Cent and Kanye West, who both released albums on the same day, in direct competition with each other. Kanye's *Graduation* convincingly outsold 50's *Curtis*, making WLU's Homecoming victory over Waterloo look like a nailbiter.

Worst of all, though, was the recurrence of the long-time rivalry between the students and the city - with police handing out \$300 fines for noise complaints early in the year. If a walk down Ezra Avenue on a Saturday is any indication, it was the students who won this one.

### October

Ontario's provincial election was held in October, along with a referendum suggesting changing the province's voting system. Dalton McGuinty's Liberals won a large majority government, while the Mixed-Member Proportional voting system was strongly rejected.

On campus, students had difficulty voting when it was revealed that using OneCards was not sufficient for voter ID, proving the government's unyielding commitment to screwing over students.

Radiohead made waves when they released their album *In Rainbows* online, allowing consumers to choose their own price for the purchase and pushing record companies into a panic attack.

In sports, the women's lacrosse team won its fifth straight OUA championship, while the men's football squad lost its only game of the regular season to the Ottawa Gee Gees.

But despite all the commotion in October, nobody really remembers a thing; we were all way too drunk at Oktoberfest.

### November

The Golden Hawks football season came to a premature end in November when they lost to Guelph in the OUA semi-finals, missing the Yates Cup game for the first time in five years.

In the Schlegel Building, SBE TV went live with two flat-screen televisions, teaching business students a valuable lesson on how to waste money on pointless

expenditures.

Also on TV was Laurier Communications prof Sandra Zichermann, who appeared on an episode of Canadian *Are You Smarter than a Fifth-Grader?* She wasn't.

Another professor, Israel Ncube, caused controversy when he told his math class that their WLU degrees would not be as valuable as those from our neighbouring university.

Finally, the yellow "Oubliette" sign campaign that is now so instituted on campus began in late November, and marked an early sign that CAS labour disputes would be rocky.

### January

Second semester began with two resignations: Matt Park leaving his position as Chair of the Board of Directors for WLUSU, and Sue Horton announcing her resignation as Vice-President: Academic for the university.

Politics were also in the foreground on a national level, with Green Party leader Elizabeth May visiting WLU, and Stephane Dion holding his Liberal caucus meeting in Kitchener through January.

University President Max Blouw began a campaign of student visioning, including an essay writing contest and an opportunity to have breakfast with the President. Evidently, students must have envisioned a strike, followed by a total lack of communication with the Laurier population.

Students were also angered when the administration shortened the hours that the Science Building could be used as study space.

### February

February will be remembered as the month of the botched election. First, WLUSU presidential candidate Brian Punambolam was disqualified from the running, and the election results were delayed by almost a week.

Then, a presidential run-off election was announced, in which Colin LeFevre won the smallest student mandate of any incumbent WLUSU president in recent history.

On top of that, election results announced at Wilf's claimed Kory Preston to be elected to the BOD, though this was later declared a mistake, as 16 names were announced rather than 15.

Aside from the election, February saw the Hawk return to the floor of the Hall of Fame, with some students trying to physically enforce tradition on the uninitiated, while others stepped on it repeatedly in protest.

Also, WLU received a welcome visit from Sue Johanson - without a doubt the sexiest elderly woman alive.

### March

March was a successful month for Laurier athletics, with both the men's and women's curling teams bringing home gold on the national stage. The Hawks women's hockey team also went to the national finals, bringing home silver after a 2-0 loss to the McGill Martlets.

After Bob Rae was elected to the federal House of Commons, he was replaced as Chancellor of WLU by businessman John Pollock.

Most significantly, the university administration and Wilfrid Laurier University Faculty Association failed to come to an agreement regarding contract academic staff at Laurier, eventually causing the CAS to strike. Talks were not scheduled to resume until April, and the strike continues on.





# year down

chool year by looking back on some of our fondest (and not-so-fond) moments (left), and a few honourable mentions (right). Enjoy your trip down memory lane



PHOTOS BY SYDNEY HELLAND, GREG MCKENZIE, RYAN STEWART AND LAURA TOMKINS. GRAPHIC BY ALEX HAYTER.

## Wilfie Awards

### Most Over-hyped Story of the Year: Laurier Free-Thought Alliance

WLU briefly received national media attention in late January this year surrounding a group of students that were rejected campus club status by WLUSU.

Campus clubs rejected the Laurier Free-Thought Alliance its status due to peculiar wording in their proposal, indicating a negative view of religion. Later, when the club changed the wording of their proposal, they were granted club status.

However, when the blogosphere got hold of this story, Laurier briefly became the centre of the science world's attention. Many were hasty to accuse the school and the Students' Union of prejudice towards atheists.

And this was all over a few words on a club proposal. Really – you can't make this stuff up.

### Worst Reviewed Piece of the Year: Meet the Spartans

It's official: Hollywood isn't even trying anymore. 2007-08 saw the release of an ample amount of crappy movies and music, such as new releases by Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys.

But *Meet the Spartans* more than anything else made *The Cord's* critics cringe. A satire of the movie *300*, the movie was nothing but a string of terrible spoofs of pop culture that began with *Scary Movie* – probably the only funny one of the bunch.

*Meet the Spartans* received an abysmal 3.3/10 score from our review when it came out on January 25. But worse than that was the realization that this kind of mindless comedy will continue to plague theatres for years. Apparently you can make this stuff up – all too easily.

### Best Sports Game of the Year: Hawks vs. Gryphons, Nov 3

Even though the Hawks football team was eliminated from Yates Cup contention, their playoff game against the Guelph Gryphons was a match to remember. Despite the Hawks starting out to a 24-0 lead, the game turned into a nail-biter that had every one of the 3219 spectators on their feet for the final seconds.

In a huge shift of momentum, the Guelph squad responded to the Hawks' 24-point run with 38 unanswered points of their own to make the game 38-24 by

the fourth quarter.

A late rally by the Hawks brought them within seven points of the lead, and a fumble gave them the ball with 30 seconds left to tie the game. It ended with a long pass that just missed the reach of receiver Andy Baechler. Even though WLU lost, it was one of the most exciting games to be played at University Stadium in a few years.

### Biggest Mistake of the Year – The CAS strike

This year certainly wasn't without its fair share of blunders. In fact, every time WLU students were asked to participate in an election, something screwed up.

But without question, Blouw allowing the CAS to go on strike takes the cake. In his first year as President of WLU, he has already lost all favour with the student body and

faculty members alike. You've got to hand it to him – that's pretty impressive.

Not only did students lose roughly 25% of their semesters in classes taught by CAS, but they also received communication from the administration that was minimal at best. Blouw refused to openly meet with students to answer questions about the issue.

His actions in the past month have dispelled any good first impressions he may have made on the university and its students.

Hands down, he deserves the honour of making the biggest mistake of the year.

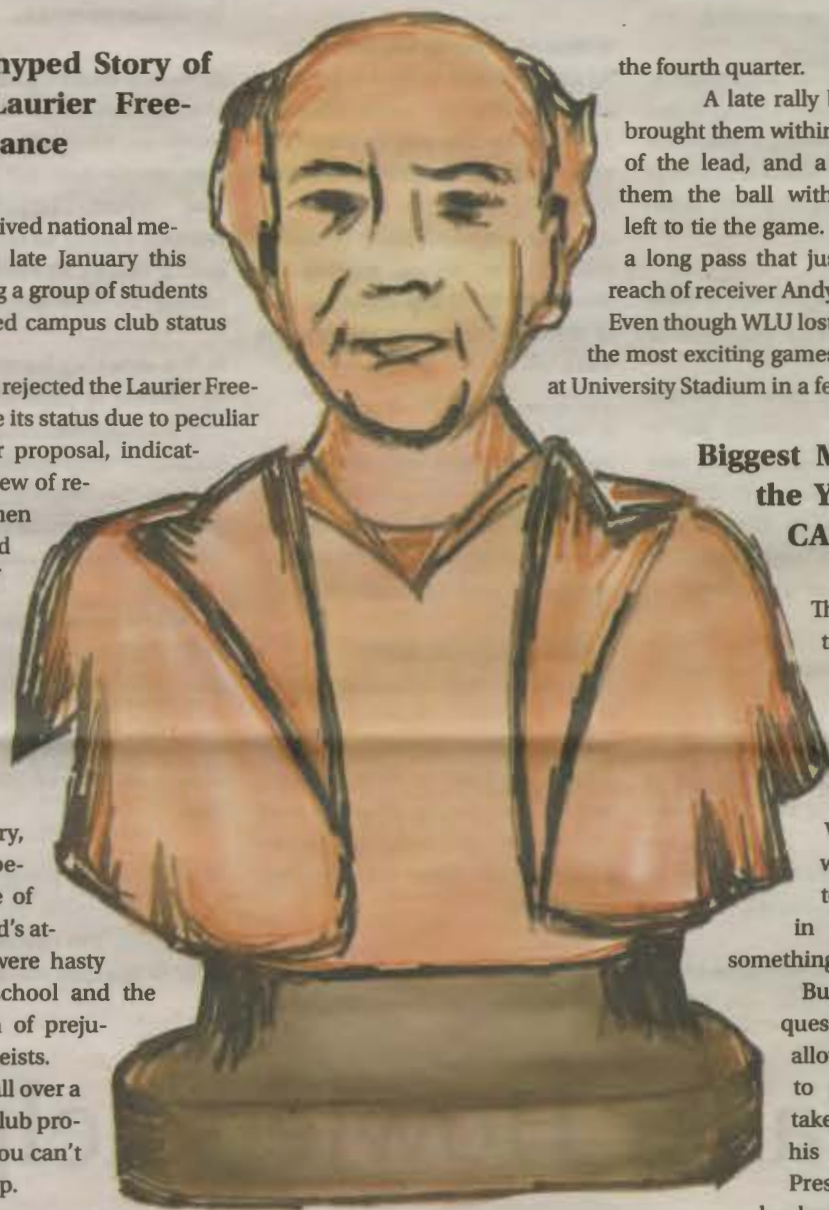
### Best Campus Concert: Justin Nozuka

Boy, did we have lots of great acts at Laurier this year! We had Stars, Jason Collett, Caribou, Matthew Good, the list just goes on.

Oh ... wait a minute. None of those people played at Laurier at all. In fact, while the Waterloo music scene was bustling with tons of great concerts, the stages of Laurier barely saw anything worth mentioning.

But, one performer that did stand out was 18-year-old Justin Nozuka, who hit the stage at Wilf's in September. Even at such a young age, he was able to thoroughly entertain his audience with his own original material.

While it's great to see young acts like Nozuka doing well, hopefully next year WLU will get its fair share of famous acts.



GRAPHIC BY JULIE MARION



# 10 things a WLU grad should know

The past few years probably taught you much more than classroom facts

**ASHLEY JANG**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Graduating from university is a very exciting time for many who are looking forward to entering "the real world".

Reflecting back on your years at Laurier, there is likely a thing or two that your university experience has taught you. Here are a few things a university education can teach you.

## 10. Beer before liquor, never been sicker; liquor before beer, you're in the clear.

After three or four years of parties, keggers and bar-hopping, you've probably learned a thing or two about what you can and cannot drink. For most of us, this cardinal rule has been very helpful in ensuring our nights out don't become too messy.

## 9. How to cook.

For those of you who moved away from home to come here, you no longer had your parents around to do all the cooking for you. These past few years have likely been an opportunity for you to learn how to cook real food for yourself.

## 8. Don't wash everything at once.

Doing laundry on your own for the

first time is often an interesting and difficult experience. Hopefully all of you have learned by now to separate your whites from your colours and your colours from your darks.

## 7. How to wake up on your own.

As nice as it was to have somebody at home wake you up for school, it doesn't stay that way forever. University life away from home has hopefully taught you how to wake up to the sound of your own alarm, even if this means putting the alarm clock on the opposite side of the room to ensure you actually wake up.

## 6. You can't always eat out.

As easy as it is to walk over to the Terrace or the Dining Hall to grab a quick bite, it's really not the healthiest choice, and it's often the cause of the infamous freshman 15.

## 5. How to actually study.

Let's face it: high school was hardly an academic challenge. A few years in university have probably taught you how to study properly and helped you to pinpoint your study habits and styles so you can hit the books when you are most productive.

## 4. The real world is a scary place.

If summer jobs have taught us

anything, it's that the real world is much different (and for some, much scarier) than university life. Once you're in the working world, doing things like sleeping until 12 isn't often an option.

## 3. Money doesn't grow on trees.

With tuition, books, rent and other expenses, many of us have learned that money runs out quicker than you expect. Hopefully you've learned a thing or two about budgeting money to ensure you have enough for all of your expenses.

## 2. Pre-drinking is critical.

In relation to point three, this is a way of budgeting money. Since university life is so costly, we have all learned the importance of a good pre-drink to ensure that we don't spend too much money at the bar.

## 1. How to budget your time.

With classes, readings, exams, papers, a social life and possibly a part-time job, we have all learned to effectively budget our time to ensure we get everything done on time.

Now that you're going out to pursue further education or to enter the real world, you can use these new skills to help you along the way.

# Speaker Howlett helps students get ahead

**HEATHER GIES**  
STAFF WRITER

Knocking Down Silos with speaker Dave Howlett was held on campus yesterday evening. Hosted by the Laurier Toastmasters, Howlett's presentation is an interactive networking event.

Meant to motivate and inspire, Knocking Down Silos promotes a "third-gear philosophy" in life, and Howlett focuses on effective communication skills and the ability to make important and meaningful connections.

The event was organized by Tiffany Tolmie, a second-year environmental studies and economics student.

She states that although this is Howlett's first visit to Wilfrid Laurier, he has presented at a number of other universities, including Waterloo and Guelph.

Tolmie became interested in organizing the event earlier this year, after attending the Laurel Centre for Social Entrepreneurship con-

ference, at which Howlett spoke. Although conversations between Tolmie and Howlett began with the topic of marathon running, it was through this connection that they made arrangements to bring Knocking Down Silos to Laurier.

Howlett is a full-time public speaker and has been giving the Knocking Down Silos presentation, which is uniquely his idea, for three years.

"I'm taking it coast to coast across Canada," says Howlett. "Bringing different people together, and putting together money and morality."

While speaking, Howlett uses a number of analogies and catch phrases which are effective in capturing attention, keeping listeners interested and presenting the audience with ideas that they are more likely to remember, but are meaningful nonetheless.

Over three-quarters of Howlett's audience were business people and the rest were students. "The thing that makes me feel great," states Howlett, "is that there are

18-year-olds here and there are retirees, and they are all going to get the same amount of information out of it."

This was a beneficial networking opportunity for those present, as it created the possibility not only of making connections with potential employees, but also other relationships based on common interests outside of careers.

Throughout the presentation, Howlett encouraged listeners to move out of what he refers to as "first-gear", acting out of self-interest, and "second-gear", a state of reciprocity, toward a more selfless "third-gear".

"Don't let your ego get in the way of your performance," states Howlett. He continues by explaining the difference between confidence and arrogance, and the importance of personality and reliability, even if, like many students, you lack experience or skill.

- SEE NETWORKING, PAGE 19



TRISH STOTT

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# Networking at Laurier



MICHELLE ATTARD

**INSPIRING WORDS** - Howlett spoke of ways to get ahead in your life.

- FROM **NETWORKING**, PAGE 18

Tolmie expressed the great influence that she feels Howlett's presentation has, struggling to even describe its overall impact. "I've gotten some great connections through him too," she states. "He knows everybody and he's always willing to help people out."

Howlett's message can be relevant in a variety of situations, from networking in careers to personal relationships and dating.

As Tolmie also stressed, it's important to keep in perspective that each person you encounter is also a human being, and remembering this is helpful to avoid becoming intimidated.

In fact, the RHB concept, Real Human Being, is an important theme in Howlett's presentation. He discusses essentially simple strategies for effective communication with all individuals, whether it is an encounter with an influential CEO or a more casual setting.

Tolmie feels that much of the message is being genuine. "Just being considerate and acknowledging people's good work," she says. "It's just really inspirational that way; you just realize that you can look at the world from a different angle."

Howlett also stressed sincerity, demonstrating through audience interaction that a simple compliment (on taste, not genetics) can be a very valuable tool in starting conversation and making connections.

At the end of the event, Howlett challenged the participants to be genuine. Although he announced that he expected only 20 percent would respond to his request, he asked that each person send him a thank-you card, as well as nine others over the next five weeks.

Although Knocking Down Silos has a message particularly applicable when seeking employment or potential clients, it was made clear that you cannot simply begin to network when you are in need of important connections.

According to Howlett, such relationships should be made and kept at all times, proving that being "a good guy" and knowing someone who knows someone can be a very powerful tool.



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## CORD-O-SCOPES

**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19



As an Aries, you'll probably be celebrating your birthday this month. There's no point dwelling on the fact that you're getting older. More importantly, dwell on the fact that your friends are only really nice to you on your special day.

**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20



You have no direction in life, and you desperately want some answers. Looking to the big picture hasn't provided any meaning. Religion, science and philosophy have done nothing for you. Try looking to the small things in life, like reality TV.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20



The stars are encouraging you this month to take risks that you normally wouldn't take. If that means spending every last cent you own on a brand new car, and then crashing it into a tree at rapid speed just for the thrill, I say do it. Or, you could just sign up for karaoke next time you're at the Spur.

**Cancer**  
June 21 - July 22



The northern star this month has travelled dangerously close to the Aries constellation. Therefore, it is absolutely crucial that you stay away from shopping malls, grapefruit juice, and reruns of Happy Days. Don't ask why - you don't want to know.

**Leo**  
July 23 - Aug. 22



This month you will have a chance to show your romantic side. But, don't come on too strong, or your gesture might backfire. Just be warned that not everybody finds it romantic when they find a cow's heart in their bed. I know; it's hard being misunderstood.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



Astrological symbols are not aligning in your favour this month - in fact, you should be expecting a catastrophe in your life. But don't fret, things aren't as bad as they seem. Just think of putting all the pieces of your shattered life back together as a game, like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. You like puzzles, right?

**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



As a Libra, April marks the time of your half-birthday, and this is

time to reflect on your behaviour so far this year, and how you can improve. But really, who the hell cares about half-birthdays anymore? Get over yourself, and stop being so self-centred.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Sometime in the month to come you will find your true calling in life. You may not know which path to take at the moment, but expect an epiphany where everything will become clear. Then, you won't have to feel like a failure with no direction, just a failure at following a specific direction.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



They say that April showers bring May flowers. This could not be more relevant to you. As long as you don't let the weather this month get you down, May will be a prosperous month. All you have to do is avoid anything that will remind you of rain, such as bathing or drinking water. Keep a stiff upper lip!

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Every now and then, having a healthy obsession can be rewarding. Of course, this is in direct reference to Tim Horton's Roll Up The Rim contest. This month, spending all of your disposable income on medium coffees will lead to fantastic riches in the form of 19 free doughnuts, 41 free beverages, and a bicycle. Sweet.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



You are on top of the world right now, and nothing is standing in your way. At least, so you think. But you have one severe threat this month - head lice. Don't let these pesky little parasites onto your scalp, or it could mean your downfall. My suggestion: don't leave the house without wearing a bathing cap.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20



You have been trying to live your life by not taking things for granted. What you don't realize, though, is that you're just appreciating things that really don't deserve it. Stop being all touchy-feely and live life like everyone owes you everything. People like that.

**Dave Shore** receives monthly prophetic visions ever since he was abducted by Illuminati lizard people who secretly rule the world. Don't believe it? Go to [davidicke.com](http://davidicke.com) and learn the truth!



# Beloved employee retires from WLU

The best part of taking a trip to the dining hall — seeing Bev — will soon end, as she retires this month after 20 years at Laurier

LINDA GIVETASH  
STAFF WRITER

To Laurier staff and students, a trip to the dining hall isn't complete without a smile and hello from Bev Kit, known to most students as simply Bev.

The beloved lady has been a prominent figure in the Laurier community, but after 20 years as a dining hall staff member, Bev has decided it's time to retire.

Bev began working at Laurier in September 1987. Having spent the prior years at home raising her three sons, she decided, "It was time to get back to work." The job had been recommended by her friend who was working at Laurier at the time.

Apart from working at the school, Bev is also a proud Laurier mom. "Since I've been here, I've put two of my boys through school here at Wilfrid Laurier," she happily stated.

Twenty years have brought a great deal of change to Laurier. Bev noted one of the biggest changes she has seen is that "it's got a lot bigger." Despite the growth of the school's population, though, Bev feels that Laurier "has a smaller atmosphere ... that's what I think is really nice about the place."

Looking back on her time here

at WLU, Bev couldn't be happier. "I love my job. Not very many people can say it ... I love the kids, and my co-workers are great," she explained. "That's why I've stayed for 20 years. I probably could have left earlier, but I enjoyed [my co-workers]. We all get along together here; it's like one little family."

The students have also made Bev's years at Laurier memorable. "I've had kids from the music department invite me to their recitals, I've been to Fashion 'n Motion — things like that are all nice memories," she explained.

"The little memories of kids at the end of the year, asking, 'Oh, Bev, can I take a picture with you?'" she said have also made her job worthwhile. She then mentioned the many letters she received from graduating students telling her, "I'm their second mom. I'm their mom away from home."

Bev's role at Laurier has also gained notice beyond the university walls. "I was in *MacLean's* magazine," she said, referring to their mention of her in their university special issue as one of the reasons to come to WLU. "The president of the Students' Union the first year I was in [the magazine] got me the book and he autographed it for me," which, she explained, has been a



LAURA TOMKINS

**NEXT, PLEASE!** - Bev is always there to help students get their food with a big, happy smile on her face.

great memento.

Bev has already begun making plans for her first year of retirement: "We're going to Arizona to see my brother ... [and] my cousin who lives in North Carolina." She is also looking forward to her niece's wedding and spending time with

her young granddaughters.

Aside from enjoying the company of her family, Bev plans on taking her retirement one day at a time and doing "lots of relaxing."

To the Laurier students Bev will be saying goodbye to, she said, "They've been great for me and I've

been enjoying them. They've all been great kids, and [they're] a lot of fun."

Bev's last day will be April 25. Hopefully, she won't be away from Laurier for too long; she assured that, "I will be back, for sure, to visit."

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# Audit secretive

As of February 28, the university has had the final report of a forensic audit of the OneCard office prepared by KPMG. The findings of the audit are currently only known by several senior administrators and the auditors.

In a recent interview, VP: HR Alison Roberts speculated that the report would not become public.

"I can reassure you," explained Roberts, "that the audit did not show evidence that any student suffered a loss on their OneCard as a result of anything happening with the system."

To begin with, such a suggestion from an administrator – the only administrator who was permitted to speak on the issue – shows this university's blatant disregard to operate in a transparent manner.

When the audit began, it was described as a routine audit despite the fact that it was a forensic audit – something that takes place when organizations suspect irregular activity is taking place.

When interviewed by *The Cord*, an accounting professional commented that irregularities often occur because of poor internal controls.

If this was the case at WLU, remaining secretive about what is going on is only going to create a culture of distrust.

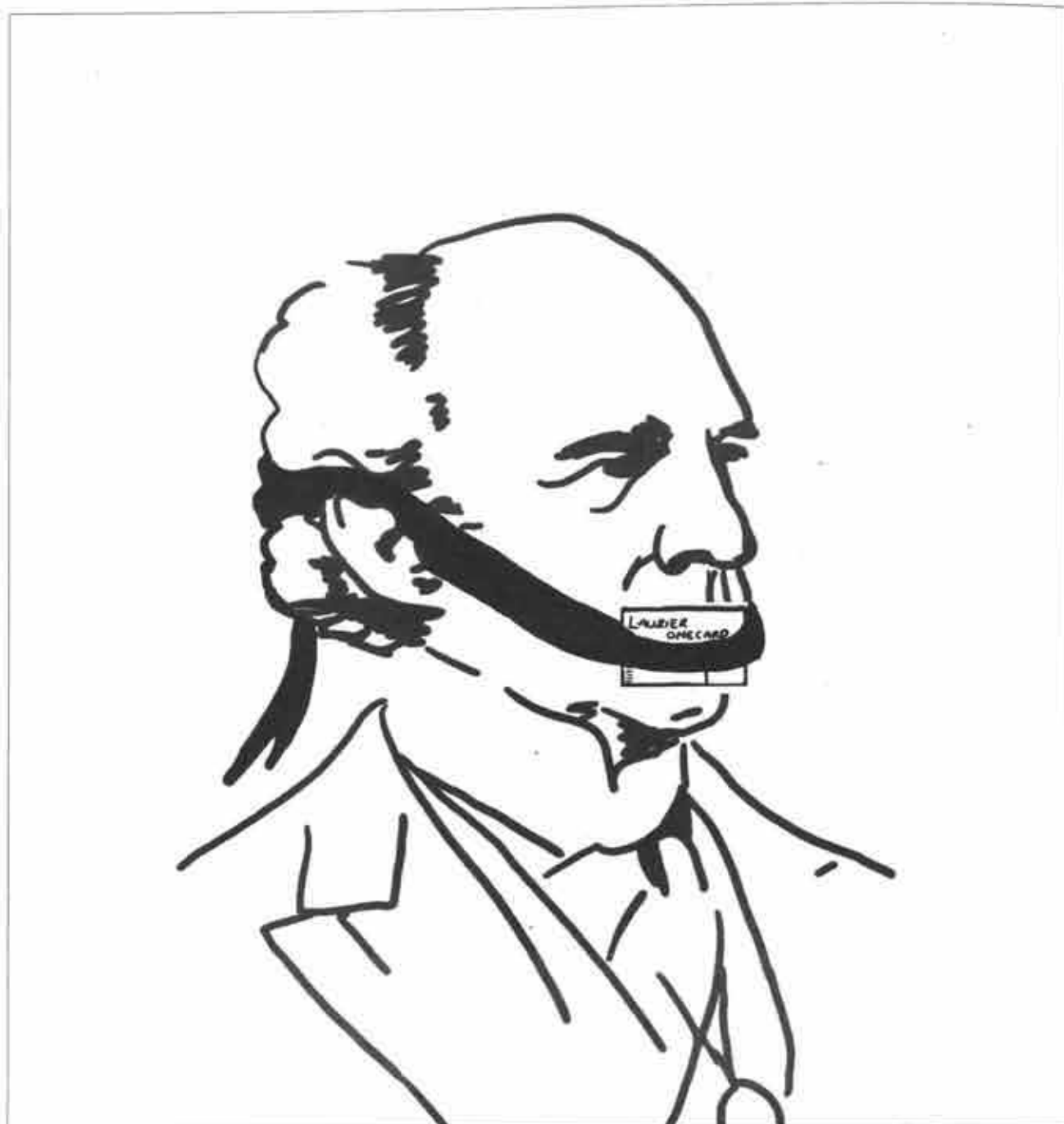
Administration should come to the realization that, in the long-term, it is much wiser to admit what has happened and explain what is going on than to hide it, hoping that the situation will simply blow over.

The fact that Nick Tomljenovic, manager of the OneCard office when the audit began, was on paid leave and now is no longer employed by WLU is extremely suspicious, particularly because the only administrator commenting on the audit is the VP: HR.

The suggestion that we should place blind trust in WLU's administration is, quite frankly, offensive. This is true particularly because of the secrecy that surrounds the OneCard office's audit.

Regardless of whether or not fraudulent activity took place, the results of this document should be released. As a public institution, Laurier has the responsibility to make this information known.

Administration should also take the opportunity to learn from this incident, and make a point of releasing information proactively instead of fostering distrust by harbouring secrets.



JULIE MARION

## Expansion premature

Laurier has entered into an agreement with the Town of Milton to examine the possibility of creating a new campus.

The understanding does not bind WLU to creating a new campus; it just commits the university to examining the possibility over the next several years.

Controlled expansion at a new campus instead of attempting to grow in Waterloo is an idea that should be carefully looked at. But the time to do that is not now.

The idea of a Milton campus comes at a bad time, as currently, WLU is in the middle of a labour disruption.

According to the administration, the university is cash-strapped and can't afford anything new, and there is no money to give striking instructors much of a pay increase.

Staff and full-time faculty contracts also expire at the end of August. If current negotiations are

any indicator, these will also need a great deal of thought.

The Brantford campus is also in need of attention. While steps are being taken all the time to improve the quality and experience of the Brantford campus, it is too soon to say everything can remain as it is.

Reports suggesting that the campus could be larger than the Waterloo campus give reason for further serious consideration.

At present there are far too many issues that should demand the attention of WLU's administration.

Finances, the academic reputation of current programs (particularly outside of the faculties of business and music) and the quality of incoming students are issues that should currently be on the radar.

And with four campuses – two less than a decade old, one of which that was based entirely on new programs – Laurier has enough to keep it busy.

## Time to wake up to reality

As WLU's flaws become apparent, the "Go Laurier!" mentality must end

JEREMY TREMBLAY  
OPINION EDITOR

As the winter 2008 semester winds down and a break from studying and writing papers emerges, many of us will undoubtedly notice a host of changes that have come over the past several months.

However, the changes and events that took place over the past seven months shouldn't immediately be forgotten during a celebratory post-exam binge. A year of turbulence at WLU should serve as a wake-up call to students that our perception of the university is falling away from reality.

The president's welcome on the WLU website reads, "Laurier is a jewel among Canadian universities. We are mid-sized with a strong reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. We are perhaps even better known for our campus vitality, sense of community and passionate school spirit."

The image of community and passionate school spirit is indeed the one that students currently contribute to the most.

Laurier is a school where volunteerism, a small school and a tight-knit campus combine to produce an active, engaging place to attend university.

Or so says our "Go Laurier!" cheerleading mentality that drowns out other voices.

Sometimes that voice resonates well: the most recent *Globe and*

*Mail University Report Card* gave Laurier As in school spirit, sense of community on campus and satisfaction with the university experience overall.

The *Report Card* only gives WLU a C for "reputation for conducting leading-edge research" – a far cry from the excellence in research we boast.

Unfortunately, the areas in which Laurier received As in are all we pay attention to.

**THE PROBLEM IS WE'RE TOO BUSY CHEERING OURSELVES ON TO NOTICE WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.**

This year, we've seen a students' union election fiasco, two sides fight over the return of the Hawk, election referendum questions being swept under the table, the CAS strike and a lack of communication from ResLife to students when a set of master keys was stolen from King Street Residence.

Laurier is not the perfect place the brochures would have you believe. And to be fair, no one should expect it to be.

The problem is we're too busy cheering ourselves on to notice what needs to be improved. But hopefully some of the obvious issues that have come up this year will remain in the majority's memory.

At present, we fail to impress in a number of ways.

This year, in St. Francis Xavier University's students' union elec-

tion, 50.4 percent of full-time students cast their ballots.

At the second of two students' union elections at Laurier this year, 1435 students voted – only 11.01 percent.

The Students' Union Board of Directors has shown a lack of interest for student opinions this year, which has combined with a lack of student interest in the Union's business.

This lack of interest in the students' union business is perplexing. As the representative body of students, why do people remain so distant from its decision-making?

While school spirit is great, it's time to realize that apathy to issues bigger than O-week and football games needs to change.

Opportunity for involvement and interest exists in countless areas beyond WLUSU. As students, we feel the results of countless decisions made at the university, provincial and national levels.

Sure, there are good things at Laurier, but there are also a number of negative things that are ignored when they deserve attention.

Instead of turning a blind eye, we need to pay attention to how we can make change for the better instead of bickering about whether or not we should be stepping on the Hawk.

letters@cordweekly.com

*These unsigned editorials were agreed upon by at least two-thirds of The Cord's editorial board and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSU.*

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# People need to accept change



GREG SACKS  
SACKSUAL HEALING

The past two weeks have borne witness to some alarming events. Some of the great icons of Wall Street (deservedly) collapsed under their own weight. The Olympics once again fell under the pall of a political dispute. The man who invented the Egg McMuffin died. And a Dutch politician decided to toss his own personal gas can on the simmering fire of anti-Islamic sentiment.

While disparate in the details, at a higher level, these incidents have something in common – the first three are examples of a natural, if unfortunate, series of events playing themselves out, changing society in the process.

The fourth, on the other hand, is an example of someone doing their damndest to stop just that from happening. And while his methods are bound to make him a lot of enemies, he has more people in his philosophical corner than one might think.

Over the past decade or two, the reaction against the effects of globalization has covered a number of different areas, including culture and its preservation. On the whole, this has been a reaction to the encroachment of Western society upon the rest of the world, erasing indigenous customs and institutions left, right and centre.

Dissatisfaction with this arrangement has led to the formation of the concept of cultural rights, an idea

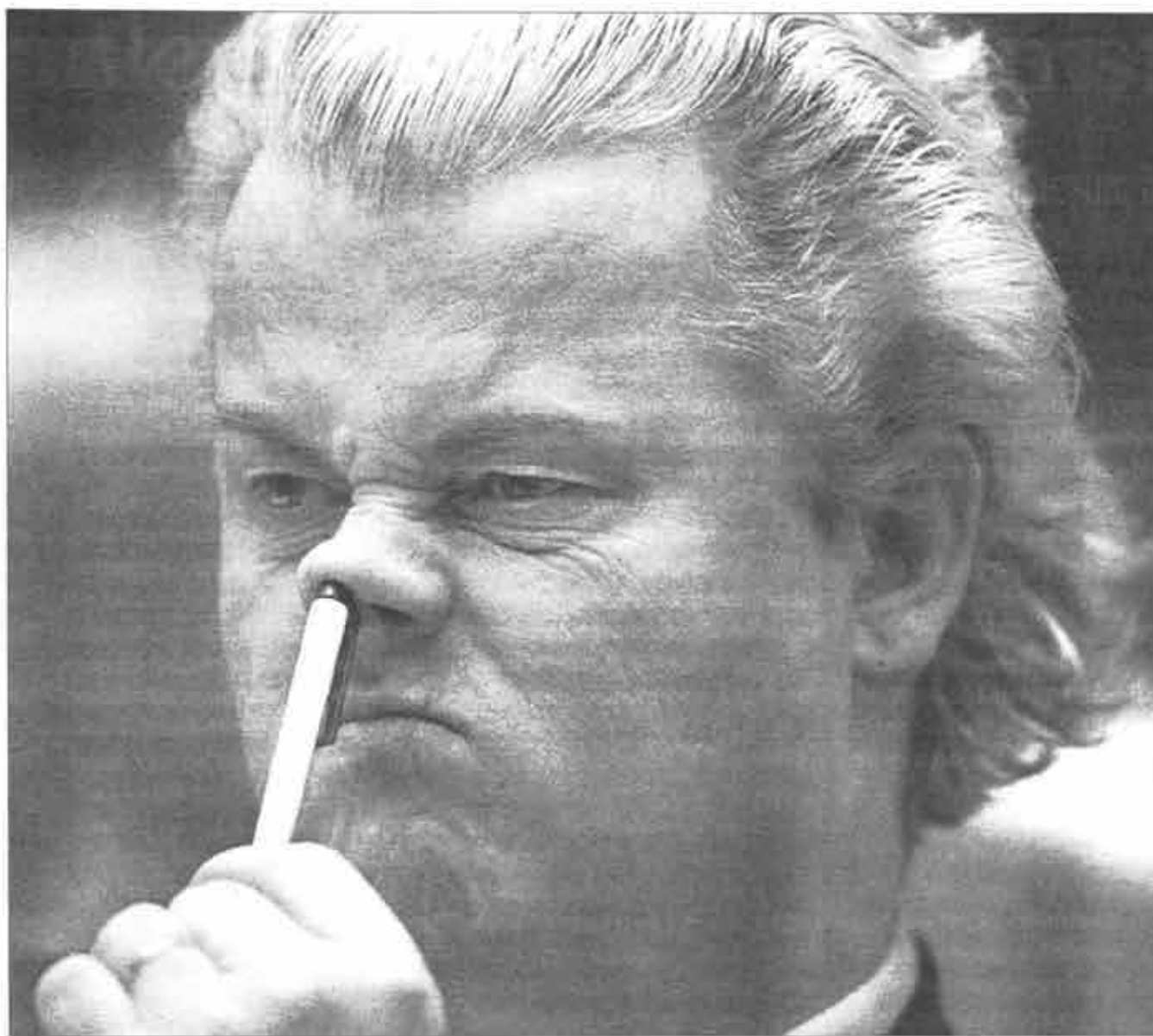
that is quickly being adopted by a number of global human rights organizations. Their purpose: to ensure that people have the ability to participate in their own culture and to avoid the imposition of another one upon them.

Noble in intent? Yes, absolutely. But going beyond physical artefacts and trying to preserve culture in the more intangible but literal sense is a goal that is actually not a long walk from some pretty dangerous extremes.

Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders is an example of one of these. He just recently posted his controversial film *Fitna* on the Internet, which purports to be a study of the Qur'an. By all reports, the film is not quite as offensive as people had expected, but it still portrays Islam in a very narrow, negative light. Perhaps more worrisome than its content, though, is its purpose – to prevent the "Islamization" of the Netherlands and Europe.

Now, there is nothing wrong with defending a culture – we do it all the time in museums – but there are certain reasonable standards that must be held to, and Wilders is not playing ball. He and others of his ilk are deliberately trying to provoke a response from Muslims, domestically or abroad, which will galvanize indigenous Europeans into barring Islam from their countries.

It is the sort of behavior which that continent should know better than to tolerate. It is also exactly the sort of behavior that is to be expected when cultural rights dictate that the European way of life should remain unhindered by external influence – it just takes a radical mind to make the jump.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PICKING ON MINORITIES** - Dutch politician Geert Wilders's anti-Islamic film *Fitna* has received international attention and resulted in less support for his political party.

The fact is that the migration of Muslims into Europe will indeed result in a changed society; it is an example of a process which has occurred for as long as modern homo sapiens have existed.

Cultures do not bounce off one another like snooker balls – they are porous entities which are constantly intermingling with one another.

Let me put it more bluntly: no modern culture in the world has developed completely independently of external influence.

More to the point – there are few cultures, if any, that are not the result of centuries of assimilation and counter-assimilation by other groups. It is only natural: it is how

societies are formed.

Cultural rights are an attempt to stop that process dead in its tracks on account of a few people who feel guilty about coming from the currently dominant West. Clearly, though, leaders of the movement have not thought through the implications of its goals.

Beyond giving license to people such as Wilders to spout their racist rhetoric under the guise of "defending culture," it also interferes with a number of other social movements.

Take the seal hunt, for example. Besides being a thorn in the side of animal lovers and a source of crudely amusement for me, it is also an Inuit custom with a long history.

Cultural rights would potentially make embargos of seal skin illegal, undermining the efforts of animal rights groups. While I'm personally fine with that, it's a great example of how embedding the protection of culture into a code of inalienable rights would have far-ranging consequences.

People need to accept that things change, and not always the way that they had hoped or planned. Trying to artificially prevent this only gives power to people who shouldn't have it, and will turn a perfectly natural transition into a damaging and painful one.

letters@cordweekly.com

## Letters to the Editor, continued on page 24

### Admin demeaning CAS contributions

It is welcome news that the Laurier administration and its striking part-time faculty are to recommence negotiations. This announcement on Friday, March 29 promises that a settlement may be in time for students to complete the academic term.

A day later, the university published an advertisement in *The Record* setting out its position on the strike, especially on the issue of seniority. The ad shows a distressing ignorance and indifference to a vital part of Laurier's academic community.

The ad stated its opposition to the union proposal claiming it would "negatively affect academic quality." Does that mean the Laurier administration views their present CAS employees as not providing a "quality" education? Ask the students. Many students view their CAS instructors as their "favourite profs," and have been active in supporting them.

In its ad, the university claims CAS instructors "fill in the gaps" not covered by full-time faculty. These are big gaps: CAS instructors teach 33% of the courses and 40% of undergraduates.

The ad reiterates its demeaning claim that CAS instructors only teach and do not engage in scholarly enquiry or research. What is the administrators' view of a university education? Does an undergraduate at Laurier receive anything more than "textbook learning" communicated by teachers without enquiring minds, incapable of independent thought and unacquainted with the frontiers of knowledge?

What about the scholarly contributions of CAS member, Dr. Nancy Riedel Bowers, for example? Her MSW and PhD are both from Laurier; she has an active research program and recently was asked to be the external on a PhD defence in South Africa. Others recognize her expertise – why not Laurier?

95% of CAS faculty have postgraduate degrees and 30% have PhDs. No one – not even presi-

dents, vice-presidents and deans – can stop their curiosity, intellectual engagement and growth as scholars and teachers.

As a consequence, their students' education is enriched, but the university administration cannot in fairness treat this professional engagement and development as a "free gift" from its CAS faculty. CAS members rightly expect that their commitment and experience should be recognized both in hiring and pay.

- Dr. Judy Bates  
WLUFA President

### Cameron lacks critical capacity

If the depth of critical thinking displayed by Dr. Sean Cameron in his letter to *The Cord* last week is the same depth his students are receiving, he has every right to be embarrassed.

- Robert Laurie

### Professor Cameron misguided

Sean Cameron's hand-wringing and attempt to justify his unwillingness to support his union was perhaps more galling to me than the insensitive and hurtful comments of Dr. Sue Horton. I searched and searched but was unable to uncover any role that Dr. Cameron played throughout this last year towards finding a "better solution to this than marching around a garbage bin with a megaphone." Further, Cameron misrepresents and distorts the historical development of organized labour. Thankfully, a number of history courses available at Laurier (some of which are taught by CAS members) can set the record straight.

Unfortunately, Dr. Sean's characterization that the strike is a "ridiculous chess match between political parties" continues to perpetuate the wrong-headed "gaming" metaphor favoured by Dr. Sue. This is not a game. His reprehensible suggestion that "only one

party loses in the end of this strike – and we all know who they are" is as thoughtless as it is misguided. Every day that I am not teaching, I am losing. My family loses as bills go unpaid and financial obligations are juggled. My seven-year-old son loses because we can't afford to enroll him in football this summer. Clearly, Cameron was profoundly impacted by his experience with organized labour at Trent University while an undergraduate. Likewise, my family and my son will also be impacted by a strike. However, this impact is not the "anxiety of a faculty strike" as Sean suffered, but rather shoe-string meals and missed opportunities. A scab is a scab regardless of how many degrees they hold and how eloquently self-rightness is expressed. Dr. Cameron is correct in one thing, however – a "better solution" is needed. I'm just not convinced that scabbing is the right one. But then, does he even care?

- Stephen A. Connor, Ph.D.



# Letters to the Editor, continued from page 23

## WLUSU should allow pro-CAS statements

Now that the CAS strike is entering its third week, it is undeniable that we have all felt its effects in one way or another. While the refusal of part-time professors to teach until their contracts are renegotiated can be perceived as disrupting this winter term for many students, it is important to remember that the strike process is largely in our interests, as it aims to improve the academic conditions in which they teach and we learn. It is also important to remember that throughout the history of Canada dissent has proven to be the engine of progress. Much of what we except as given (labour norms like the eight-hour day and forty-hour week, as well as an established minimum wage) was indeed earned through the process of labour organization and mobilization. Given the ridiculously minimal wages paid to part-time teachers at our school, both in comparison to our tenured professors and part-time teachers at other universities, a refusal to continue teaching was necessary to defend the academic integrity of Wilfrid Laurier University.

During this strike, the WLUSU has taken a stance of 'political neutrality,' meaning the wearing of the yellow 'Part Timers Give Full Value' by employees is not allowed while on shift. The hypocrisy of this

stance is that it becomes a political stance in and of itself, denying student employees the right to voice their support for an issue directly affecting them. A further irony lies in the fact that other employers on campus, who unlike WLUSU do not exclusively hire students – like Tim Horton's, Second Cup and the Dining Hall – allow the wearing of pins by uniformed staff.

The denial of free expression by WLUSU to their employees has proven that it has become too unresponsive an institution to properly express or represent student interests. It is also completely antithetical to the processes and functions of a university institution, where dialogue on such important issues should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

- Fergus Mulhern

## Carmina Burana amazes

I need to express how EPIC, beautiful and overwhelmingly marvelous the Faculty of Music's production of *Carmina Burana* was this weekend. If you missed it, serious condolences – especially since for Laurier students it was free. The opening of the show – with the world premiere of *Imaginibus Mundi* and the candles in honour of Earth Hour – was breathtaking and set an amazing tone for the rest of the show. The instrumentalists,

choir, dancers, lighting – everything was so well integrated; it was wonderful. I very much enjoyed the interpretation of the show and was sad when it was over. I am proud that our school put on a show of that magnitude and calibre. I really do hope that the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community is able to promote and support the development of the arts in our community and that all the students pay attention. We are privileged here to have access to this kind of talent.

- Janice Lee

## Student protesters sensationalistic

Like most students, I hope this CAS strike comes to a timely end. I hope that both parties are able to come to some kind of compromise. That may sound naïve, but it's the way I feel. Plus, I'm not educated enough on the matter to spout out facts, stats and the like. I appreciate that the part-timers feel undervalued.

What I *do not* appreciate is the way in which the student protestors are going about their cause. I do not appreciate being berated in the hallways because I've chosen not to join other students and faculty in the rally. If all I want to do is wear a button – that's my prerogative.

Secondly, I've seen and heard about signs that say "Contract Academic Slavery" as well as a Facebook event for a sit-in that calls on

participants to "Be a Gandhi". Isn't that a little sensationalistic?

I think that the part-time faculty themselves are picketing very sensibly. They are out in the cold wearing signs and handing out pamphlets, which I think is both reasonable and understandable. I just wish the students would follow their lead.

Don't get me wrong – I still hope that everything works out in the end somehow, but I just wish the angry protesting by the students would come to a timely end too.

- Maeve Strathy

## Thank you from WLUSP president

The paper you hold in your hand is the last scheduled issue of *The Cord Weekly*, Laurier's independent news media source. The team at WLU Student Publications has sought to challenge and engage you by reporting on the issues that matter with accuracy and clarity. We have pushed through obstacles and gone through great lengths to pursue the truth.

Let me be clear who I mean when I refer to "we". *The Cord* is produced by a team of over 120 of the most incredible illustrators, photographers, copy editors, writers, editors and advertising staff that I have ever met. It is through their commitment to journalistic integrity, an almost pathological sense of

perseverance, and a spirit of volunteerism that we have produced "the tie that binds". Please allow me to take a moment to thank these hard working individuals in this public forum.

Every production night, when you stay up until sometimes 8 am to get the paper done, you are not just demonstrating your dedication to *The Cord*; you are showing your commitment to the craft. Those nights represent the enthusiasm I see in all of you when you report on events, take photographs, conduct interviews ... you put in immeasurable amounts of work for little to no reward, and always with a smile on your face. I know that the attitudes and talents you lend to WLUSP are what make us extraordinary, and for this, I extend my deepest thanks!

- Keren Gottfried

President of WLU Student Publications and life-long reader of *The Cord*

## Letters Policy:

All letters to the editor must be signed and submitted with the author's name, student identification number, and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Monday via email to [letters@cordweekly.com](mailto:letters@cordweekly.com) or through our website at [www.cordweekly.com](http://www.cordweekly.com). Letters must not exceed 350 words.

The Cord reserves the right to edit any letter for brevity and clarity. The Cord reserves the right to reject any letter, in whole or in part. The Cord reserves the right to not publish material that is deemed to be libelous or in contravention with the Cord's Code of Ethics or journalistic standards.

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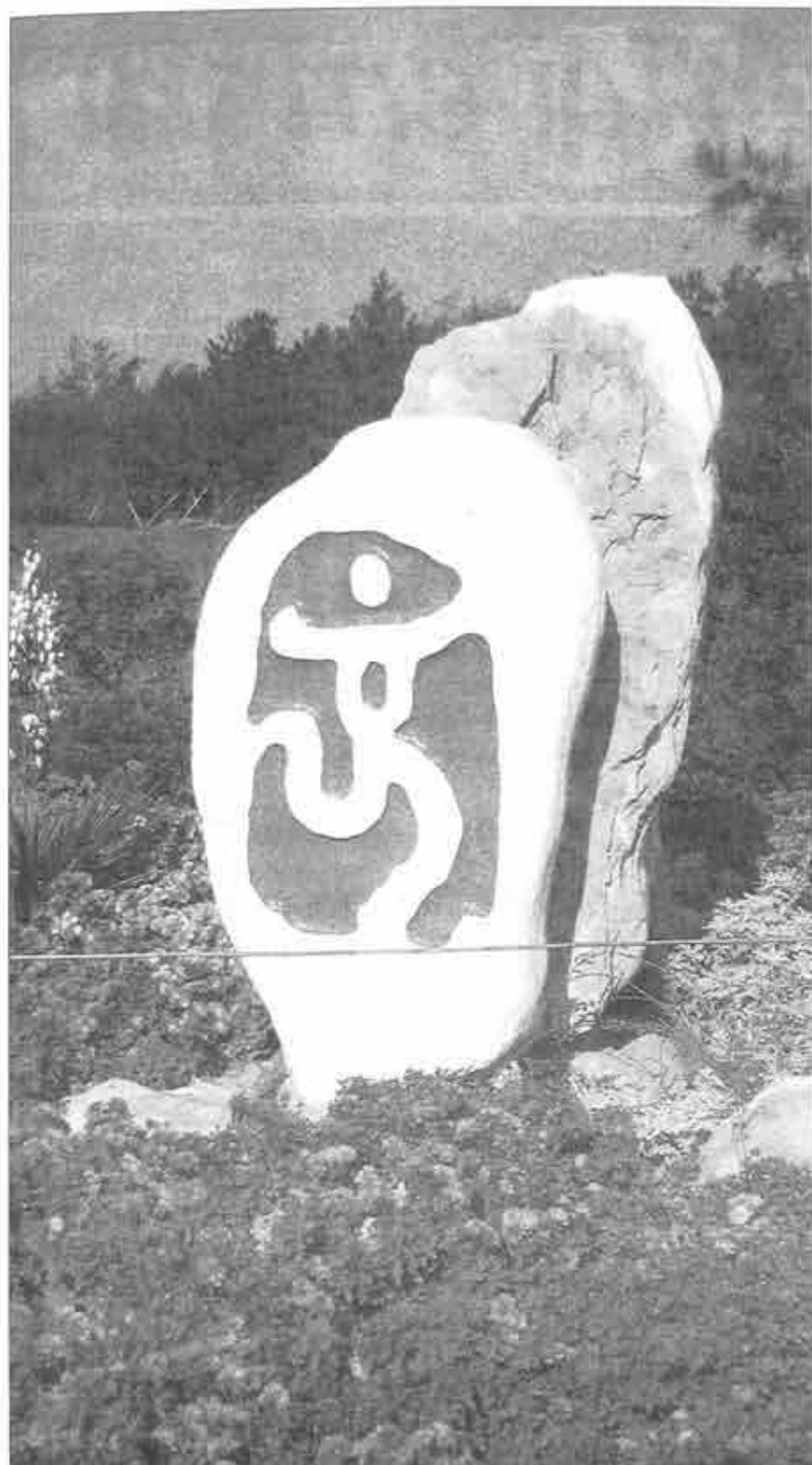
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**BEIJING 2008** - Olympic attendance has come into question as China's relations with Tibet have garnered international headlines.

## Boycotts of China useless



**KIMBERLY  
ELWORTHY**  
UNDER THE RADAR

This year, the Olympics are taking place in a developing country. The 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China have become rife with controversy due to the human rights violations taking place in Tibet.

Tibet, the traditional home of the Dalai Lama, is also home to people who face much oppression due to the Chinese government and its discrimination towards the independence and autonomy of Tibet. World leaders are discussing a boycott of the games because of the current problems within China.

How, you might ask, is boycotting a sports event going to change the politics of an entire nation? Well, the answer is that it won't.

*Time* magazine outlined some similar situations in which politics and the Olympics have clashed, such as when the US boycotted the Moscow Olympics and vice versa. African nations boycotted the Montreal Games because of an issue about rugby and New Zealand and several European countries refused to attend the Melbourne Olympics because of some Eastern European conflicts.

An Olympic boycott has not actually happened since the Cold War, making Beijing the site of

modern-day activism. The new ideology between the developed and developing suggests a "we are better than you" syndrome apparent in so many world issues.

It is easy to shake our fists and gasp at the Chinese government. We quickly decide to take away our presence and attention from a country that needs it. The European leaders of Poland and the Czech Republic have already declined the invite and Germany's leaders didn't even plan to attend the event, says BBC News. Obviously, they're too busy for such an unimportant occasion.

### IT IS ABSURD TO EXPECT CHINA TO CHANGE ITS GOVERNING BASED ON THE ATTENDANCE OF WORLD LEADERS.

However, during the 1936 Olympic Games, which actually took place in Nazi Berlin, China made the effort to participate even though Hitler clearly believed in prosecuting those who were not Aryan. Furthermore, the event had the largest representation of nations of any past Olympics, according to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

So why do a communist bloc and Western dictator get RSVPs from the highest number of nations in Olympic history when an Eastern one does not?

Why, in 1936, did beating Germany and their extreme human

rights violations through sport become an option, but now it is not even on the minds of those in the West?

The Olympics stand for nations coming together; they allow different people from around the world to receive attention and acclaim for the effort they have dedicated to representing their people, their heritage and their country.

The Beijing Olympics offer insight into Chinese culture even through its mascots. "Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni" - an accumulation of these names - means "Welcome to Beijing."

They are not only representations of important natural characteristics of China; the fish, the panda, the Tibetan antelope and the swallow are also symbols

of good wishes. Aspects of these Olympics are rooted deeply in Chinese history, showing the effort, care and excitement the Chinese people have about the world coming to Beijing.

It is absurd to expect the Chinese government to change their governing based on the attendance of certain world leaders; however, it is not so absurd to bring news coverage to Beijing so that people can learn more about China, whether it is in its greatness or its faults.

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# STUDENT DAY OF ACTION

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# 'Average' a poor achievement

Students should take advantage of being at an institution of higher learning and realize the merits of striving to be exceptional



DAN KELLAR  
BEING THE CHANGE

It has been argued that to excel in school or in life means that you have to give up aspects of a fulfilling or well-rounded social life.

To earn scholarships and entrance into graduate school means that you have to put your head in the books, fall asleep in the library and brown-nose your way around.

I cannot help but wonder - what is the great advantage to being average? Since you are paying to learn (how to learn) at university, applying yourself to achieve something more than average should be desired. You can learn how to follow orders for free in the army or at SunLife, and they will even pay you.

Universities have to be about creating new knowledge - not just attaining a diploma for an "average" life. Instead of university, you could have gone out into the workforce and gotten a perfectly meaningful average job, or you could have used your \$22,000, four-year tuition money and your \$20,000 or so in rental and ancillary fees to travel

the world and gain a perspective few ever get; no one would force you to be an overachiever while travelling.

What is it about the high point on the bell curve that is worth working for?

Sitting in a small cubicle at work after driving in a large car through a traffic jam should not describe average.

Does working for a system you may not agree with while having no chance of changing it describe average?

1.8 children and a three-bedroom, fully-detached house out in a former forest with a plot of chemically treated imported grass is an absurd form of average.

The reward of being average is that you don't have to be an individual; you can turn off and fit right in with the masses.

I undertook my undergraduate studies at Laurier and spent much of my first two years in a Phil's-induced, life-directing and somewhat cloudy state (for only \$1.50 a drink).

In my last two years, I averaged 120 days of skiing and managed high enough marks for acceptance into a graduate program.

I also co-founded and then sold my interest in a now-thriving

business (ARC Clothing Co.), sustained a loving and enriching common-law relationship, spent time with family, and created new friendships to go alongside already established ones.

I threw away no benefits for the sake of my "success," for success is happiness after all. Many other graduate students have similar histories.

Conferences are a great part of academics and students have ample opportunities to attend or present at conferences that are of interest to them. Harmonizing and incorporating your life with your achievements and successes will ensure you do not have to sacrifice very much.

I have applied myself more thoroughly this year and for the first time received academic scholarships and have been awarded a pair of prizes.

Perhaps the pubs have missed my patronage a little this year, but an average life is not dependent on pubbing. Honour roll and otherwise "over-achieving" undergraduates and all graduate students do have time to hang out with their friends.

Some believe that there are associated downfalls or sacrifices with "over-achieving" but these are

universal; please do not forget that even the average can fail - we are all humans.

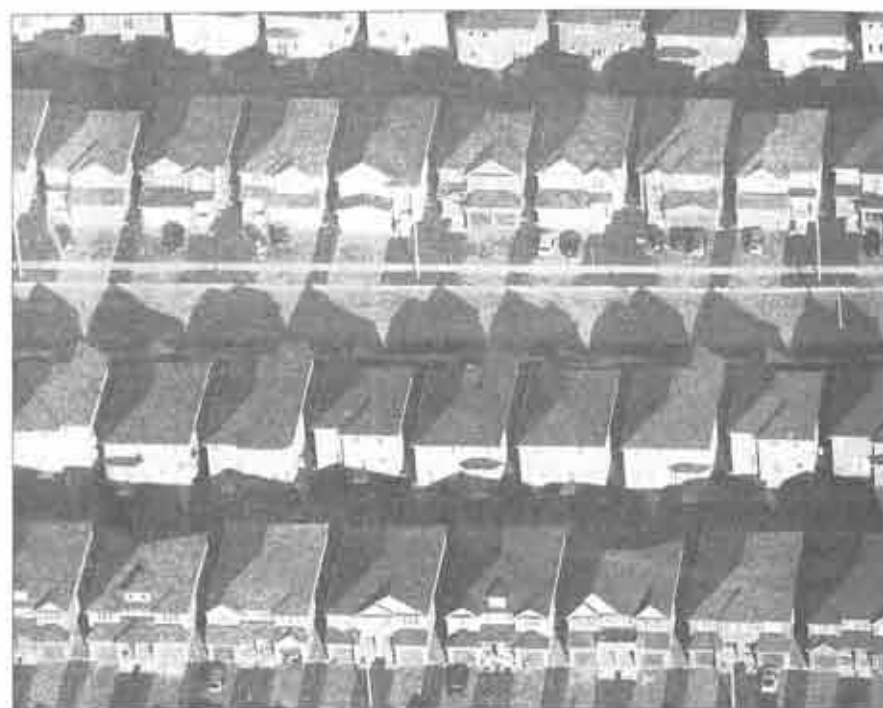
It is what you don't sacrifice (ethics, values, morals) that makes one exceptional.

Striving for mediocrity will bring nothing but idiocracy; wishing only for the status quo invites apathy. Hoping for only average will lead to cultural and social stagnation, as there will be nobody working to better society because they are afraid to stand out.

One does not require a university degree to be exceptional, and I do not consider myself exceptional. But if you want to be average, do not continue at university - save your money and time.

You can be perfectly average without a degree, and too many average people with WLU degrees brings down the value of that degree for those who wish to achieve beyond the status quo.

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THE 'BURBS - Rows of semi-detached houses are a Canadian norm.

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8	5	4	3	2	1	6	7	9
6	1	2	9	4	7	5	8	3
3	8	9	4	7	2	1	5	6
4	6	7	1	3	5	2	9	8
1	2	5	8	9	6	7	3	4
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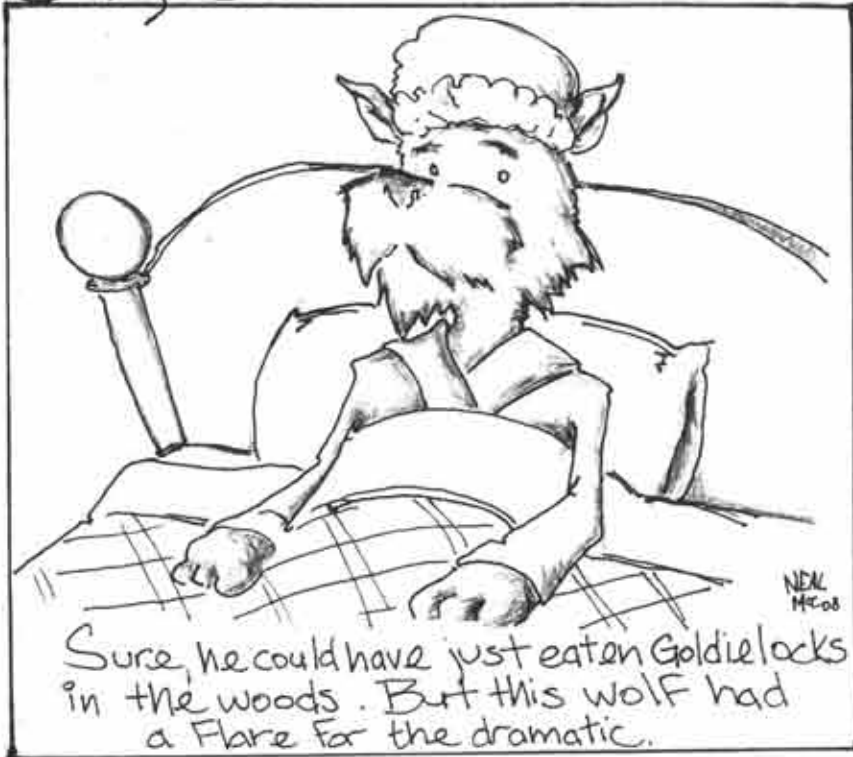
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# Predictable yet fun, it's 21

Hollywood releases yet another poker-thriller film, this time with the crooner Sturgess taking the mathematical-genious lead

KEVIN HATCH  
STAFF WRITER

Considering the risky pleasure generally associated with gambling and the seductive thrill of watching a heist or scam unfold, it should come as no surprise that *21*, a film that combines the two aforementioned premises, should excel at being enjoyable.

And while the film may be very familiar ground to anyone with any experience with *Ocean's Eleven*-style crime capers, and the majority of the film's plot points verge on being almost laughably predictable, it is executed with enough exuberant flair to make it worthwhile in the midst of its formula.

A slow start gives the necessary exposition as to how a thoroughly ethical young MIT student's (Sturgess) desperate need for money to attend Harvard medical school leads him to join a team of mathematical geniuses trained in blackjack card counting who routinely rip off Las Vegas casinos on their weekends away from class.

However, this opening proves over long, overly predictable and largely unnecessary, dragging far too much before plunging into the film's real fun, as Sturgess and his

team are engulfed by the seductive glamour of Vegas and the thrill of the huge monetary takes.

Some judicious editing, clearing away such unnecessary subplots (such as a robotics competition with Sturgess' tiresomely stereotypical nerdy friends) could have resulted in a far more streamlined and faster-paced film.

Some viewers may take offense to the "Hollywoodizing" of the MIT team, with team members of different ethnicities largely shoved to the background in favour of the typically gorgeous Caucasian leads, a disconcertingly common practice in modern-day cinema.

However, the flashy MTV style cinematography and editing ably capture the engrossing spectacle of Vegas, and once the film gets going, it would be difficult to deny the sheer enjoyment of being swept up in the heady rush of quick wealth and all of its hedonistic trappings.

The film's quality cast adds credibility to the frequently underwritten characters they portray. Jim Sturgess impresses as the ethical math prodigy slowly corrupted by a world of superficial glamour, his endearing charm putting an intriguing enough take on the "troubled but well-meaning hero" archetype.

As one might expect, Kevin Spacey effortlessly steals the show as the charismatic yet ruthless professor managing the MIT card counting team, and Spacey's easygoing yet commanding presence is a profound boost to the film.

Kate Bosworth contributes a typically flat performance, but given her token inevitable love interest role, she fails to detract much from the film's overall quality.

Lawrence Fishburne adds class, much needed dramatic weight and moments of grim humour to his role as the antagonistic, burly head of casino security, gradually catching on to the MIT team's scamming.

While the age-old adage of style over substance certainly holds true here, *21* may essentially epitomize the modern Hollywood crime caper film, but the formula hasn't quite run dry enough to overly

detract from the enjoyment factor. The film's snappy visuals and strong casting are mostly enough to make up for a largely uninspired and frequently weak script.

However, fans of similar works

will not be disappointed, and for those willing to forgive the film's frequent delving into the wells of convention and accept entertainment over profundity, *21* should prove an ideal watch.



I AM SO SMART - Cutting class to gamble pays off huge in this flick.



*21*  
Director: Robert Luketic  
Starring: Jim Sturgess, Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth  
Release Date: 28/04/2008  
Rating: 7.0/10.0

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# Up in the sky - it's a superhero film!

The summer of 2008 holds promise with tales of high adventure, but can Hollywood deliver more than just enticing trailers?

**TOM HOWSE**  
STAFF WRITER

As a former comic book nerd, I've been led me to disappointment after disappointment over the past few years by Hollywood. You'd think I'd have learned, but once again I find myself amped up by the summer previews. 2008 seems to be home to a new breed of superhero movies - one that combines the supernatural nature of comics with the realities of the everyday world: they provide a real take on crime and suffering.

Starting up the lineup is *The Incredible Hulk*, which is scheduled to debut on June 13. It is hard to find excitement for the Hulk because of the precedent set by the original - it was the first truly bad superhero movie of the modern era.

Not only did it deviate from the traditional storyline portrayed in the comics (an understandable mistake as almost every movie has done it), but the acting was poor and the movie was simply unable to captivate its audience.

Nevertheless, I find myself with high hopes for the next one based on cast alone - seriously, how could a movie featuring Edward Norton, Liv Tyler and a guest appearance from Robert Downey Jr. really suck?

Another superhero movie that is being released in the summer is *Ironman*, starring Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard

and Jeff Bridges. Although Ironman may appear to be a conventional All-American hero, Tony Stark - the man behind the suit - is far from it. He is a wealthy alcoholic, who was modeled after Howard Hughes (portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Aviator*).

This movie has serious potential, because the director has decided to take a similar approach to Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*. *Iron Man* is rumored to be the darkest superhero movie to date.

Finally, there is the release that the masses have been waiting for: *The Dark Knight* will be the next installment in the revitalized Batman series. The series began with the aforementioned blockbuster *Batman Begins* starring Christian Bale, Michael Caine and (unfortunately) Katie Holmes.

It was the first and only superhero movie that really dedi-

cated itself to finding the delicate mix between the fantastical realm of superhero and the dangerous realm of crime in the real world.

Fortunately, with Christopher Nolan as the director, the movie was able to find the perfect middle ground, and was a huge success.

*The Dark Knight* looks to be just as promising as its predecessor, and will feature the most classic Batman villain: the Joker. The film

once again features Bale and Caine, but will add Maggie Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger to the lineup.

This film will also function as Heath Ledger's final bow. Although Ledger's recent death was both premature and extremely disappointing, it has been rumored that he

went out with a bang, and that *The Dark Knight* is spectacular.

In all truthfulness, the list could not be considered complete without honourable mention given to *Indiana Jones*. Although he might not be considered a conventional superhero, the Indiana Jones franchise has consistently produced spectacular action-packed masterpieces.

**ALTHOUGH HEATH LEDGER'S RECENT DEATH WAS BOTH PREMATURE AND EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING, IT HAS BEEN RUMOURED THAT HE WENT OUT WITH A BANG.**

Despite Harrison Ford's increasing age, the film holds loads of potential. Mark down May 22 on your calendar, because one of Hollywood's classic series is about to be rejuvenated.

While I keep on telling myself not to get my hopes up, with this lineup, I simply can't prevent myself from doing so.

This lineup may end up being filled with duds, but in all likelihood, it will make for a great super-movie summer.



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# Carmina Burana in TA

CARRIE MCNABB  
STAFF WRITER

There's a Rickard's commercial out now where two men contemplate the idea of a duel to the death for the last pint of beer. In the background there is a huge choir singing in Latin. The song they are singing is a piece from *Carmina Burana*, a harmonic and powerful collection of music.

Composed in 20th century Germany, it combines ancient medieval texts influenced by French, German and Latin with music that is both classic and varied. Tackling such a piece is no easy feat, but in order to raise awareness for the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community (LcMC), Laurier's music department did just that.

Set in the Theatre Auditorium, two choirs stood on either side of the stage with a band situated in front of the stage. The stage was taken over by the MOTUS O dance company. The dancing was creative and entertaining, but understandably overshadowed by the overwhelmingly talented musicians at Wilfrid Laurier.

In addition to three Laurier choirs – Wilfrid Laurier University Women's Choir, Wilfrid Laurier University Concert Choir and the Laurier Singers' Chamber Choir – members of the surrounding community joined the Laurier vocalists to add further richness to the collective voices.

The solo vocal performances were particularly outstanding. It is no wonder that Laurier's music program is nationally renowned.

Although the performers in *Carmina Burana* were nothing but professional, perhaps due to the logistics of the Theatre Auditorium, the performance seemed a little imbalanced. The dancers situated on stage behind the band and the choirs frequently got lost in the sea of musicians. In another venue, this show could be transposed in order to give proper attention to the visual dance performance while allowing for the acoustics of the band and choir to still be heard.

The performances of the Laurier Faculty of Music's *Carmina Burana* were March 28 and March 29, with tickets costing \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and free entrance for all

Laurier students. It truly is a shame more students don't get out to more music shows, since after graduating, most people won't have the opportunity to see performances of this calibre for such a bargain.

As the term winds down, try to get out and see a musical performance at Laurier. Even if you didn't get a chance to see *Carmina Burana*, with year-end recitals, there is no shortage of performances to choose from. Refer to the Faculty of Music page on the WLU site for upcoming events.

## CORRECTION

In the March 26 article entitled "Talent at the Turret", *The Cord* stated that "Die, Vampire, Die!" was from *Vampire Prom*. It is actually from the musical entitled [Title of Show]. In addition, "Rules Regulations and Respect" is from *Zombie Prom*, not *Vampire Prom*. Lastly, this was the second time the LMT cabaret was performed at the Turret, not the first, as the article implied. *The Cord* regrets these errors.



LAURA TOMKINS

**ME SO HORNY** - Angels and demons often misread the other's signals.

## T&C presents: *Betrayal*

For its final show, Theatre & Company opted for this Harold Pinter work

CARRIE MCNABB  
STAFF WRITER

Theatre & Company did not know it at the time, but when they selected Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* to close the 2007-08 season, they may very well have selected the last play ever put on.

The King Street Theatre Centre, outside the Kitchener bus terminal, announced last week that although they will be staying open as a rental space for the next 12-18 months, Theatre & Company will not be coming back for another season.

Although they have not completely ruled out a return in the future, the company has cited both financial difficulties and diminished audiences as reasons for the closure.

Artistic director Daryl Cloran indicated that 2008-09 will be a year for the company to fundraise and explore future options for Theatre & Company.

The King Street Theatre Centre offers a smaller alternative for live entertainment than Kitchener's larger Centre in the Square. Cloran was in attendance for *Betrayal*'s preview and had nothing but good things to say about his experience this season as artistic director.

Pinter's play may be familiar to fans of the show *Seinfeld*. The manipulation of a linear timeline was honoured in an episode named after the play.

*Betrayal* follows a love triangle: a married woman, her husband and her husband's best friend. By beginning the play at the end of the relationship and slowly moving backwards in time, it is impossible

to feel anything but pity for the characters as they systematically destroy their lives.

The play is staged in the style of theatre in the round. The audience surrounds all four corners of the stage – a directing nightmare, but an interesting dimension for this show. As the play deals with the never-ending fear of getting caught, the audience acts to intensify the fear by playing voyeur and really trapping the cheaters.

Although this is an interesting challenge to undertake, this play relies heavily on the reactions of the other characters in order to understand the timeline. These reactions were lost at least a quarter of the time – sometimes more, if you are unfortunate enough to be sitting on an overly neglected side.

Although *Betrayal* is a decent show, its success (or perhaps, lack thereof) will likely be overshadowed

by the end of Theatre & Company's potential final season. It's the end of a company that has been around for 18 years and most recently fought to compete with Centre in the Square's higher-profile shows and larger space.

T&C, only producing four shows a season, brings in shows with smaller casts and a more intimate studio feeling. Perhaps the Kitchener-Waterloo market isn't open to these types of shows, but T&C's administration will figure that out in the next 12 to 18 months.

*Betrayal* continues at the King Street Theatre Centre until April 13. Shows run Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 pm, with an additional show on Saturday at 2:00 pm and one on Sunday at 4:00 pm. Wednesdays are "pay what you can"; otherwise, student tickets are \$19 or \$21 on the weekend nights.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BE KIND, REWIND** - By the time this is over, you'll know why I hate you.

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# DMST playing Starlight

Canadian instrumental indie rockers Do Make Say Think chatted with *The Cord* before visiting Waterloo this Saturday night

**ELISE COTTER**  
STAFF WRITER

It is safe to say that everything about Do Make Say Think is unique. Their music, how they got together and their record label all intertwine into a colourful history.

The band was initially just a group of young friends getting together to play music. Soon, several jam sessions evolved into actual gigs and the independent recording of their first album in 1996.

In 1997, their self-titled album was bought by a member of the group Godspeed You! Black Emperor, who then introduced DMST to their record label, Constellation. The new Montreal-based label, which only had a handful of other artists, was very interested in releasing the album.

DMST is still with Constellation simply because of their outlook on music. "They don't do business. They look at it as releasing art, and helping artists release their art," explains DMST member, guitarist and saxophone player Ohad Benchetrit. "We don't have a record deal; what we have is a handshake."

Essentially, when the band has completed their album, they simply hand it over to Constellation for release. DMST consists of Benchetrit,

guitarist Justin Small, drummers James Payment and David Mitchell, and bassist and trumpet player Charles Spearin.

Notice the lack of singers. "We're all musicians. We really love melodies, we really love textures," says Benchetrit. DMST is not restricted by any song writing or formulas; they write songs from whatever comes to them naturally.

Their latest record, *You, You're A History In Rust* is the first to include vocals by guest artists Deep Dark United, Great Lake Swimmers, and by DMST themselves. For Benchetrit, experimenting with lyrics is just a natural process of evolving as artists. The band needs to try new things to stay inspired and energized while recording a new album.

Even when experimenting, DMST has always followed the same process of music-making. The band starts off by getting some ideas for melodies and themes. Then, they schedule some time "to disappear into the music," says Benchetrit.

Usually at a cottage, the members develop and complete a few songs. The development is continued in their Toronto studio, as they put the final touches on the album.

After finishing their album, DMST needs to translate their

songs for the stage. Benchetrit admits, "We need to learn how to play these songs live." Even though it's a challenge, DMST always looks forward to playing for the fans they much appreciate.

They are especially excited for their show this Saturday at the Starlight. "We haven't had the opportunity to play together in five months. We're looking forward to being a band on stage again," says Benchetrit.

After being together for 12 years, their desire has not diminished. "We thoroughly enjoy the kind of outlet that music provides," he explains.

The only difference now is the difficulty of getting everyone together long enough to record their music. In between the members' full-time jobs and families, they need to prioritize time to come together and finish an album.

They are, however, happy to do it. Benchetrit explains, "We're musicians - it has to be part of our lives, or else it feels like there is something missing. We feel empty."

Tickets for Saturday's show are \$15 in advance and are available at Orange Monkey, Encore Records or through the Starlight's website. Doors open at 9pm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PRACTICE HARD, PLAY HARD** - DMST find live concerts challenging.

## A glance behind and a look ahead

The A&E crew takes the year into review to sum up highlights and low points, and anticipates what's yet to come this summer

**Highlight:** *The Darjeeling Limited*, 3:10 to Yuma and *In Bruges* all provided great entertainment, impressive characters and beautiful cinematography.

**Low point:** I was disappointed that it took so long for Hollywood to settle the Writer's Guild strike fairly ... sound familiar?

**Looking ahead:** The new Batman, *The Dark Knight*, is the big one, but May is looking marvelous with *Iron Man* and the new Indiana Jones film coming out.

- Wendy Nind

**Highlight:** I was most happy with the film *Atonement*. Both Keira Knightley and James McAvoy were amazing, along with my new favorite director, Joe Wright.

**Low point:** What disappointed me the most was that I missed Justin Nozuka at Laurier and still haven't seen a legit concert.

**Looking ahead:** I'm really looking forward to the release of *Sex and the City: The Movie*. I am a huge fan of the series and the educational advice it provides.

- Elise Cotter

**Highlight:** *Super Smash Bros Brawl* has already provided me countless hours of fun. Awesome game.

**Low point:** Robert Jordan's death - On September 16, 2007, the author of the "Wheel of Time" series passed away within hundreds of pages of completion out of an approximate 12,000. The world lost a phenomenal writer.

**Looking ahead:** Radiohead is coming to Canada and will be stopping in Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto. No need to really justify this one - simply put, it's Radiohead!

- Tom Howse



**Highlight:** *Bioshock* gets credit for blowing me away in every way that a video game can.

**Low point:** Hot Chip's *Made in the Dark* wasn't as good as I had hoped it would be. Not terrible, but definitely not as good as what they have done previously.

**Looking ahead:** I'm most looking forward to running around Liberty City and creating all sorts of exciting, maniacal destruction in *Grand Theft Auto 4*.

- Daniel Joseph

**Highlight:** I recently fell in love with Dallas Green's second solo release *Bring Me Your Love*. It's exactly what you wanted if you liked *Sometimes*, and the same, if not sadder, acoustic ballads feel like an old friend you can cry with.

**Low point:** I was asked to review *Meet the Spartans*, and was more disappointed than the Christmas that I didn't get a pony.

**Looking ahead:** I'm looking forward to two things this summer: Heath Ledger's performance in the new Batman sequel, and *Sex and the City*, the movie version. Now, if only there was some way to combine the two ...

- Jillian Wood

**Highlight:** I was pleased with the writer's strike ending just in time for the Oscars to go on.

**Low point:** The closing of Kitchener-based Theatre & Company.

**Looking ahead:** The awesome collection of superhero movies this summer: *The Dark Knight*, *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Indiana Jones* (yes, Indy is a superhero).

- Carrie McNabb